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Amir raps US, Soviets on Jewish influx

JEDDAH, Feb. 7. (Agencies): The Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) today castigated the United States and the Soviet Union for allowing an influx of Soviet Jews into the Israeli-occupied territories.

The Amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, said Washington and Moscow were guilty of the "most dangerous decision against the Arab world at the turn of the century."

The Amir made the remark in a speech read on his behalf on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the creation of the OIC, of which he is the current chairman.

The 46-member organisation is the umbrella grouping for the world's estimated one billion Muslims.

"At a time that the world's conscience had grown more aware of the Palestinians' rights and while we were looking forward to positive steps to achieve legitimate Palestinian aspirations for a state on their territory, suddenly the curtain lifted to expose the most dangerous decision against the Arab world by agreement of the two superpowers at the turn of the century," the Amir said.

The speech was read by Kuwait's Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, Khaled Ahmed Al Jassar.

The Amir, OIC Secretary General Hamid Al Gabid and host Saudi Arabian King Fahd pledged increased Islamic support for the Palestinians until they obtain a state of their own.

"The Jewish influx emanates from the Soviet Union and flows under the banner of human rights to settle in the land of their choice by dint of the new immigration laws in the United States and Europe," the Amir said.

Restrictions on immigration of Soviet Jews into the US has turned them toward Israel, where leaders expect some 300,000 to settle over the next five years.

"They (the Jews) end up in Palestine... where the Arab inhabitants have to face a diaspora or be drowned," the Amir said.

"The makers of the law talk about the right of Jews to emigrate and settle where they wish and do not talk about the right of the Arab person to (Continued on Page 9)

Crisis ends in unanimity on democracy

Unity and security of Kuwait stressed as Crown Prince meets former deputies

By Ahmed Al Jarallah
Editor-in-Chief

HH The Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah met former National Assembly deputies yesterday and optimism spread all over the country after the long-awaited meeting.

Some local observers commented that "the crisis is over." The meeting took place for three hours, including a luncheon offered by Sheikh Saad to the former deputies.

Local observers are convinced that everything is over and things have been set back on the right track.

Informed sources told the Arab Times that the discussions during the meeting were "very frank."

Surgeons operating in candlelight, fist fights over bread



A Christian woman looks out from a window of a car as she and her family fled battered East Beirut to safer area in the capital. One of the windows of the car was shattered by a sniper fire. (Reuters wirephoto)

Aoun to fight till end

BEIRUT, Feb. 7. (Agencies): People searched East Beirut hospitals for missing relatives as surgeons operated in candlelight and police reported fist fights over bread, reflecting desperate conditions left by nine days of war between Christians.

French Humanitarian Aid Minister Bernard Kouchner and Ambassador Rene Ala negotiated a 90-minute ceasefire covering only one street of East Beirut used by a convoy of seven ambulances to evacuate 12 seriously wounded people from the Hotel Dieu hospital in the Ashrafieh district.

General Michel Aoun today vowed to fight the Lebanese Forces (LF) militia to the finish unless it renounced an Arab-backed peace plan for Lebanon.

"If everybody quits I will stay by myself defending my position," Aoun told a news conference in an underground bunker at the presidential palace of Baabda in Lebanon's Christian enclave.

Police said the casualty toll from the savage clashes stood at 365 dead and 1,682 wounded, noting that scores of the injured were dying in hospitals due to scarcity of blood, and antibiotics and other medicines.

"We have reports of 18 wounded victims who passed away at hospitals in East Beirut alone. We do not have updated reports from the rest of the (Christian) enclave," said a police spokesman, who cannot be named in line with regulations.

He said Gen. Michel Aoun was reorganising his forces in (Continued on Page 2)

35 die in Karachi strike violence

KARACHI, Feb. 7. (Reuters): Security forces and anti-government protesters fought gunbattles in Karachi today, killing 35 people and injuring 110.

Police said they arrested about 300 people as a general strike paralysed Pakistan's biggest city.

"It was the worst strike in Pakistan's history," a police official said.

Authorities clamped a curfew on large areas of Karachi.

Protesters attacked four police stations trying to free colleagues arrested during the day.

Police said at least 50 shops were looted.

Government officials said the indefinite curfew was imposed on seven police districts covering about a quarter of the port city's eight-million population.

Troops in battle-dress patrolled the city in army trucks fitted with machine guns and police fought several battles with guns, teargas, stones and other missiles with the strikers, witnesses said.

Those killed by gunfire or stabbing included a soldier, four policemen, a woman doctor and an 18-year-old child.

Doctors at Karachi's Jinnah and Abbasi hospitals said they had declared an emergency and called in off-duty medical staff to cope with a flood of injured.

"The wounded are lying on floors," a Jinnah hospital doctor said. "We don't have many beds. We have appealed for blood donations."

Urgent pleas for blood were relayed through loudspeakers on mosques.

Troops, paramilitary forces and police fought battles with activists of the powerful Mohajir National Movement (MQM) which called the strike, accusing Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's government of repressive policies.

Protesters set fire to bank buildings, vehicles, shops, houses and two offices of Benazir's Pakistan People's Party (PPP), witnesses said.

Dozens of police were posted atop police stations to keep a watch on the attackers, witnesses said.

The strike closed the stock exchange in Karachi, Pakistan's commercial capital, and all shopping centres. There was no loading or unloading at Karachi port and the airport was badly hit by a low turnout of staff. Local train services were suspended.

Clear sweep for Gorbachev

Monopoly ends

Communists surrender pole position

MOSCOW, Feb. 7. (AP): Communist Party leaders agreed today to relinquish their constitutionally guaranteed monopoly on power and move further toward transforming the Soviet Union into a multiparty democracy, officials said.

The party central committee, which decides communist policies, voted almost unanimously to accept the proposals of President Mikhail Gorbachev despite sharp criticism of his plan during an extended meeting this week, one participant said.

It marked another victory for Gorbachev in his drive to transform the party from a static oligarchy to a modern political force able to compete for power.

Politburo member Vitaly Vorotnikov confirmed the central committee's decision and said the party was prepared for competition.

"We cannot rule out the emergence of new parties," Vorotnikov said in a statement distributed by the official Tass news agency. "But we communists are not going to surrender our positions. Just as any party in the world, we will be waging a struggle for our rights."

He said the party would talk with any political force that stands for democracy and rejects violence.

The Communist Party will ask the people to approve a presidential system with a cabinet, Politburo member Alexander Yakovlev said today.

The central committee ended the meeting with discussion on the Lithuanian Communist Party's decision in December to break away from the central party. A party source said the central committee recognised a small faction of the Lithuanian party that remained loyal to Moscow as the Baltic republic's true party representative.

(Continued on Page 2)



A very old Romanian woman is spoon fed in a Bucharest nursing home. The elderly, especially women, were all but abandoned under the Ceausescu regime prior to the Romanian revolution and lost rights to housing and employment at a considerably earlier age than in the West. (Reuters wirephoto)

Two Kashmiris shot dead

Indians, Pakistanis hold rallies

SRINAGAR, Feb. 7. (Reuters): Indian troops shot dead two store clerks in troubled Kashmir today after apparently panicking over an accidental gas explosion, the father of one of the victims said.

Police did not confirm the deaths but said five people were injured in the gas blast in the Lal Chowk business district.

Mohammad Yusuf said his son ran outside after a gas cylinder blew up and security men shot him dead. "They apparently panicked at the blast and fired indiscriminately," he said.

The second victim was a shopkeeper in the same building.

Doctors at a local hospital said two people with fatal bullet wounds were brought to the hospital morgue.

The deaths occurred as a 13-hour curfew relaxation was about to end in Srinagar, summer capital of Indian-ruled Jammu and Kashmir state, which has been rocked for months by separatist Muslim unrest.

India and Pakistan have fought two of their three wars since 1947 over Kashmir and growing tension between the two countries has provoked fears of a fourth conflict.

Meanwhile, at least six policemen and two bystanders were injured when militants attacked a police bunker, also in downtown Srinagar, said witnesses, who also spoke on condition of anonymity.

It was not immediately known how many militants were involved in the grenade attack or if any of them suffered injuries when the policemen returned fire, they said.

Japanese official dies in car crash

TOKYO, Feb. 7. (Kuna): Two Japanese nationals, including an official from the Ministry of International Trade and Industry, were killed in a car accident while en route from Kuwait to Dammam in Saudi Arabia, the Japanese authorities announced yesterday.

The sources, quoting reports from the Japanese embassies in Kuwait and Riyadh, added that director general for economic co-operation Akira Kaaya and businessman Makoto Hosokawa were killed in the car accident.

The sources said that another employee at the ministry Jun Kimura was suffering from dangerous injuries.

Tough Manila 'adultery law'

MANILA, Feb. 7. (Reuters): A leading senator today proposed tougher legislation against men who keep mistresses, saying the maximum penalty should be raised to six years in jail.

Senator Edgardo Angara, a former president of the University of the Philippines, said he was proposing an amendment to the penal code to bring into line the penalties for women who commit adultery and men who keep concubines.

At present keeping a concubine is punishable by between six months and four years in jail, whereas a woman who commits adultery can turn up to six years. Under Philippine law, a man cannot be convicted of adultery in the largely Roman Catholic country.

THANKS TO HH The Crown Prince and Premier. He was simply more than excellent during his meeting with his sons, the sons of Kuwait. Winds could have pulled them a little, but the storms of affection and love for Kuwait will always keep them bonded to their country, their origin and to each good word. You simply gave them the example of an honest, responsible official who fears God while taking any decision relating to his country and its interests. They came out from the meeting smiling, carrying all the love and affection and good intention you showed to them. Certainly it was a necessary meeting to cool the nerves and it was indeed a fruitful one. Kuwait is a small country that has no place for feelings of hatred and the land is for love, brotherhood and good words. Thanks again to the Crown Prince and Premier. It only shows his keen interest for his country.

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State of sea: Moderate

High water: 9:00 am, 12:00 pm

Low water: 6:00 am, 5:00 pm

Sunrise: 5:34 am

Sunset: 5:31 pm

Maximum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 18°C 64°F

Ahmad: 17°C 63°F

Falaka: 18°C 64°F

Minimum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 8°C 46°F

Ahmad: 12°C 54°F

Falaka: 10°C 50°F

Maximum temperatures expected:

Kuwait: 19°C 66°F

Ahmad: 18°C 64°F

Falaka: 19°C 66°F

Maximum humidity recorded:

Kuwait: 87 per cent

Ahmad: 88 per cent

Falaka: 85 per cent

ARAB TIMES

Grand Bingo

Mr Cajetan Colaso has won the KD100 First Full House prize. Game No. 75 continues for the Second and Third Full House prizes.

Philippines acts against child sex

MANILA, Feb. 7. (Reuters): The Philippine Congress is cracking down on child sex and the mail-order-bride business.

A House of Representatives committee endorsed a bill this week that would impose prison terms of 10 to 20 years for adults who have sex with children under 15 years old. Another committee sought to ban newspaper advertisements for mail-order brides.

The resolution approved by a majority of the bar said the ban on political parties should be lifted and called "on responsible quarters concerned" for "immediate steps towards peaceful changes in favour of the right to political organisation."

The bar has approximately 300 barristers and advocates as its members.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), Tamil militant group based in the north of Sri Lanka, threatened to attack the police station in the eastern town of Akkaraipattu if youth being held in custody was not released, according to reports from police and residents reaching Colombo.

The reports said the youth, Muslim, was taken into custody while using a loudspeaker with out police permission.

Following the arrest of the youth, two LTTE cadres had arrived at the police station and informed the officer-in-charge if not to engage in any other form of activity except to go out of the station to purchase food items and at the same time demand the release of the youth in custody, the reports said.

Syed had himself admitted in Parliament that the foundation stone ceremony of the temple was done on the disputed area of the Babri Mosque campus. In view of this the government should not have any objection over resumption of construction in that area.

He urged Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh to honour the decision of Hindu religious leaders and saints who had met at the temple from Feb 14 and try to persuade the Muslim leaders to withdraw their claim from the remaining part of the campus.

Singhal thanked Singh for devoting his full attention to the appeal of the VHP on the issue during his hour-and-a-half session with the 11-member delegation in New Delhi yesterday.

(Continued from Page 1)

But Pavel Zinoviev, head of the party organization in the Kamchatka region of the Soviet Far East, said the committee would permit the Lithuanian party majority that declared independence also to send delegates to the next party congress, scheduled for this summer.

The approved party platform would radically alter the Soviet political system, which has been dominated by the communists since just after the Bolshevik Revolution more than 70 years ago. Implementing a multiparty system would mirror changes in formerly orthodox socialist countries of East Europe during the past year.

Svyatoslav Fyodorov, a well-known eye surgeon who attended the three-day central committee meeting, said only one "no" vote was cast against the platform that would abolish article 6 of the Soviet constitution. The article calls the party the "leading and guiding" force in Soviet society.

"Article 6 will no longer be. There will be a multiparty system. There will be a normal democracy," Fyodorov said.

Tass and Radio Moscow reported the party's approval but provided no details. They said the document would be published in official newspapers.

Radio Moscow said the central party body, is the only group with the power to choose a new central committee.

Sources at the central committee meeting said it would recommend that the Supreme Soviet legislation reject article 6 of the constitution. The Supreme Soviet could take up the issue as early as next week or after the party congress this summer.

Final authority for changing the constitution rests with the Supreme Soviet's parent legislative body, the Congress of People's Deputies. The Supreme Soviet must approve any possible change in the constitution and pass it on to the congress of people's deputies.

At its last meeting in December, the Congress of People's Deputies blocked Gorbachev's plea and ordered reforms by reformers to ask voters to elect a new committee.

But since then, Gorbachev has said it would be "no tragedy" if a multiparty system developed in the Soviet Union. He told the central committee on Monday the party must compete for the right to lead the country.

Fyodorov said there had been few major changes in the document Gorbachev reported on Monday despite sharp criticism from reformers and conservatives.

The 249-member central committee was joined in the meeting by more than 700 other officials from around



(Continued from Page 1)

apparent preparation for major assaults to dislodge Samir Geagea's Lebanese Forces militia from its besieged strongholds in the 310-square-mile (800-square-kilometre) Christian enclave.

Aoun, at a news conference, blamed the fighting on Geagea and charged the militia leader was being used by the United States to force implementation of an Arab League-brokered peace plan designed to end the

Dbaye people left speechless

Aoun wreaks devastation

nation's 14-year-old civil war.

Washington has declared its support for the peace accord, worked out by Lebanese Parliament members meeting in the Saudi resort town of Taif last October.

Aoun rejected the peace plan and the election of President Elias Hrawi, who has pledged to oversee its implementation.

Geagea, who recognises Hrawi as President, has not made public statements declaring support for the Taif accord.

"The Trojan horse never said in public he was in favour of the Taif accord, although he staged his war against the army with American blessing to enforce implementation of the humiliating agreement," Aoun said.

"The world... can crush me, but it can never force me to accept Taif accord. I will continue fighting, even if I am alone," Aoun added.

The press conference was broadcast by the general's Radio Lebanon.

Koukchmer and Als drove in an olive-green bulletproof car behind the ambulance convoy across Beirut's dividing Green Line to the Hotel Dieu.

Three of the victims were brought into Hotel Dieu earlier

DBAYE. Lebanon, Feb 7. (Reuters) For nine miles (15 kms) along the road from Death river to Dbaye, there is a shell crater every metre two.

No building has escaped unscathed, a whole shopping centre has been destroyed, cars smouldering, telephone poles have been flattened. People of Dbaye have been left speechless.

Everything in sight has been damaged by a savage three-day artillery bombardment unleashed by General Michel Aoun against his fellow Christian rivals in one of the fiercest battles of Lebanon's 14-year civil war.

The Reuter correspondent was among the first newsmen allowed into the area since Aoun's army troops captured the Lebanese Forces (LF) militia barracks at strategic Dbaye north of Beirut in a three-pronged attack yesterday.

It was the Aoun forces first major success in a week-long Christian war that has cost at least 350 lives.

Smoke wafted through the wreckage. The occasional sniper bullet and shrill cries of distraught women rang through the remains of Rachdan barracks.

"We tried to avoid bloodbath but they (LF) pushed us into it, army captain said as he attempted to explain the scale of devastation.

Dazed civilians, emerging from days in underground shelter appeared numbed and disorientated. Such was the devastation, some were clearly unable to recognise their old neighbourhood.

"The shells have changed the whole geography and shape of Dbaye, one of the town's 10,000 Christians whispered.

Elias Bakhos said he huddled with his family in a shelter through Aoun's artillery bombardment. "Six shells hit our building, some from burning cars outside entered the shelter... we thought we would be asphyxiated."

At Rachdan, a queue of 50 black-clad mothers sought news of their sons, some who fought then fled with the LF, others who battled for Aoun.

"Did you see Georges?" asked a woman, tearing unconscious her hair in anxiety.

Dhaka to host LDC meeting

DHAKA, Feb 7 (Reuters): More than 20 people were injured today when police fought students protesting against plans to turn a Bangladesh university into a hospital.

The battle erupted after authorities sent police to Gazipur 40 km (25 miles) north of Dhaka, site of the three-year-old Islamic University, to clear a blockade on a major highway leading to north Bangladesh.

Thousands of travellers have

The government said on Monday it would move the university to northwestern Kuchinda district and use its present building for a new 500-bed hospital.

It has also promised to introduce post-graduate courses at one Gazipur college to help local students, but the protesters refused to accept the offer.

Witnesses said early today police picked up about 20 students from the university's dormitory and chased others into a nearby village.

"Police even hit women in the village with batons," villagers Abdul Barez told reporters.

■ Ministers from the world's poorest nations will meet in Dhaka from Saturday to discuss a new development strategy, Bangladesh Foreign Minister

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He said ministers from 29 of the world's 42 least-developed countries (LDCs) had already agreed to attend the Feb 10-13 meeting.

"The Dhaka meet will challenge our new plans and review our past failures," Mahmud said.

He said the United Nations would host another meeting of LDCs in Paris in September. A development plan called the substantial programme of action (SNPA) was launched at a similar meeting in 1981.

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Japanese men dropping out of work, sight

TOKYO, Feb 7, (AP): Increasing numbers of Japanese men are dropping out of sight, abandoning their jobs, families and homes to pursue personal fulfillment or expressing their sense of alienation from the nation's workaholic culture.

In the last decade, the number of men who have vanished for work-related reasons has almost tripled, police say.

Other Japanese men leave large companies to start independent ventures, or quit office jobs for unorthodox pursuits.

Dedicated corporate minions served as the foundation for Japan's economic resurrection after the devastation of World War II. Legions of dark-suited, team-playing wage earners have logged long hours at work while their wives dutifully took care of home and children.

As Japan's prosperity solidified and women became more independent, some men have re-examined their own lives. Changes in the way people view their personal horizons have led some men toward new-found freedom and other toward unprecedented anxiety.

In 1977, a total of 3,341 adult men and women disappeared for work-related reasons, but 10 years later the figure for men alone was almost 10,000 according to the national police agency. Relatives said they believed the men left of their own choice and did not meet with foul play.

Job-related reasons were listed by their families as the most common factor in the disappearances. Work and family tensions are also commonly cited as major factors in increases in mental health counseling

among men in recent years.

Several studies suggest more and more men are suffering from overwork at Japan's mighty corporations, and that a lack of privacy at home, a sense of declining power within the family and general alienation from family members makes some men dread going home after work.

Psychiatrist Toru Sekiya knows some of the most severely affected victims of this malady. On any given night, his Tokyo clinic houses three to eight lodgers who can't face going home at all.

"Although it only started a few years ago, there are many men on the brink of falling into this kind of depression," Sekiya said.

Sekiya's clinic treats men who suffer from depression associated with alienation

from their families. In all, he has treated only about 60 men with the problem, but says a surge in patients has occurred in the past two years.

Some 40 per cent of male employees at Japan's top corporations surveyed by the Fukuoka Mutual Life Insurance company say they choose not to go home at least once a week. Of those, 61 per cent said they spend the nights drinking with friends, while over one-third said they drink alone.

Meanwhile, dissatisfaction with work and a greater sense of personal freedom have turned job-hopping from taboo to trend.

Labour Ministry statistics show a 40 per cent increase over the last three years in job-hopping among men, which was almost unheard of just 10 years ago.

These statistics worry the ministry, which recently decided to introduce job counseling services and employment seminars for college students and workers to stem the increase.

The Ministry believes the problem is mostly due to college students deciding about jobs before they form ideas of what they want to do. With a labour shortage and companies anxious to recruit capable workers, students often commit to jobs they know little about many months before graduating.

"Most of those making job changes belong to the young generation. They tend to be much more individualistic than their fathers," says sociologist Sumiko Iwao, who teaches at Tokyo's Noto University.

But even some older men are discovering

there is life outside the corporate straitjacket.

Kazuo Shimizu, 35, left a subsidiary of the Toshiba Corp., where he promoted exports, to be a professional race car driver. He also started his own auto-parts company.

"I wanted to be a pro driver before I joined Toshiba but I went there because I wanted stability and because I was also interested in international trade," Shimizu said.

He made a wise choice. The Toshiba subsidiary, Toshiba Audio Industries, has since gone bankrupt, but Shimizu has no regrets about his current occupation.

A salaried worker at a major construction firm by day escapes the tension of his office by playing bass in a jazz bar at night.

PEOPLE AND PLACES

NEW YORK: Actor Robert De Niro has prepared himself for roles by handing out with derelicts on New York City's bowery, riding horses with the Texas Rangers and tramping through a Louisiana swamp with an alligator hunter.

He is not sure if it was all worth it. "You could do all the research in the world — sometimes it pays off, sometimes it doesn't," De Niro says in the March issue of *Smart* magazine. "Sometimes you don't have time. You got to be a human being up there. That's the most important thing."

De Niro, who won an academy award for *Tender Mercies* and starred in *The Godfather* and *The Great Santini*, says he is a stickler for detail in his characters and in films in general.

"When actors start acting bigger than life, bigger than the people they play, then they're in trouble," De Niro said. "For example, I can't even talk about *Gone With the Wind*. You don't see people in the south like that. It's a joke." (AP)

PITTSBURGH, Pennsylvania: A scratchy throat limited Paul McCartney's vocal range, but it did not matter to fans who had waited more than a quarter-century for the former Beatle to return to Pittsburgh.

McCartney performed Sunday at a sold-out show before some of the same fans who chanted "Paul, Paul, Paul" during the Beatles' only local appearance in September 1964.

McCartney's cold affected his upper range on songs such as *Let It Be* and *Get Back*. He also trimmed about 15 minutes from Sunday's show, eliminating *Band On The Run*, *Maybe I'm Amazed* and *Ain't That A Shame* from his set list.

But fans who waved signs reading "Paul Rules" hardly noticed as they sang along with Beatles standards such as *Let It Be*, *Yesterday* and *Back In The USSR*.

"We used to play Beatles when we were kids, and my cousin always made me be Ringo," said Casey "Blondie" 33, of Youngstown, Ohio. "But I always loved Paul because he's so good looking." (AP)

NEW YORK: Comedian Robin Williams has presented a \$227,000 check to New York City for the homeless from Comic Relief.

He signed the check over to New York City Mayor David Dinkins Sunday at St Vincent's Medical Centre.

The money comes from the \$9 million that was raised by Comic Relief, a fund that features Williams, Whoopi Goldberg, Billy Crystal and other top comedians.

Comic Relief has donated funds to help the homeless in 23 US cities. It has given New York \$580,000, which was administered through St Vincent's Medical Centre and the United Hospital fund to pay for the medical care of more than 15,000 homeless people. (AP)

NEW YORK: Actress Helen Hayes recalled how songwriters Irving Berlin cemented her relationship with her husband-to-be as she and other show business luminaries remembered him in a warm-hearted, two-hour Broadway tribute Tuesday.

The salute to Berlin, who died in September 1988, was held at the Music Box Theatre, which Berlin and Sam Harris built in 1921 and which the Berlin family still co-owns.

It was presented by Berlin's daughters, Mary Eliza Barrett, Linda Evans and Elizabeth Peters. The American Society of Composers, authors and publishers, which Berlin helped establish, produced it. (AP)

Marseille Threat to sue

PARIS, Feb 7, (Reuters): Proud citizens angered by Marseille's image as a home for gangsters and smugglers are threatening to sue any one who defames France's second city and major seaport.

The New Look Foundation, grouping 30 local organisations, has 750 Marseille lawyers who say they are ready to spring into action if the southern city's name is taken in vain.

Its tough reputation was scarcely improved when district Mayor Jean-Jacques Peschard was murdered last month, apparently victim of a battle for control of Health clinics.

"See Marseille and die" and "Marseille-Chicago" quipped the national media after the killing.

BEVERLY HILLS, California: Comedian Milton Berle is selling his longtime home here because it contains too many memories of his late wife.

"I didn't have to sell the house," Berle said. "But there are too many memories there, you know, after being married 36 years."

The 81-year-old comic is negotiating to lease a penthouse on Wilshire Boulevard in Los Angeles for \$12,000 a month. The house sold for more than \$3 million in cash to the owners of a mortgage company.

The 60-year-old home was put up for sale in October following the death of Berle's wife Ruth. In April, they had lived in the house for 19 years.

Berle has asked \$3.65 million, but apparently the property needs work.

"It has a lot of character but needs updating, and that's what the buyers plan to do," said Yaffa Lerner, who sold the house. (AP)

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana: Singers Willie Nelson, John Cougar Mellencamp and Neil Young are preparing for the fourth farm aid concert.

Mellencamp, a native of Seymour in Indiana, says that raising money is important but so is creating the awareness of "how important the family farmer is to us all." The concert was scheduled for April 7 in Indianapolis.

Nelson said Farm Aid IV will focus on the ability of farmers to provide safe food at reasonable prices. (AP)

FARGO, North Dakota: A boy hospitalized since November for treatment of a malignant brain tumour has gotten special medicine from two of his heroes: Tyrese Brooks of the Denver Broncos and Michael Jordan of the Chicago Bulls.

Fourteen-year-old Darren "Armedon" an active athlete before his illness but blind the past two months as a result of the tumour, was cheered Sunday by a visit from Brooks, a former north Dakota state university football player.

Darren's father, Michael Arneson, said his son's meeting with Brooks was a wish come true. Darren's other dream is to play one-on-one with Jordan, who sent him a letter and an autographed poster.



Idol serious
British rock star Billy Idol was listed in serious condition Feb 6 after breaking his right leg and suffering other injuries in a motorcycle accident. Idol is pictured at the Sept 14, 1984 MTV awards. (Reuters wirephoto)

Panhandling right upheld

Begging in NY subways

WASHINGTON, Feb 7, (UPI): Panhandling, despite a nationwide backlash against it, has some defenders who claim it is a constitutional right.

But federal judge Leonard Sand probably outraged majority opinion in the United States with his recent ruling that begging in New York City's subways is a form of free speech protected by the first amendment.

The ruling, which has sparked heated editorials and debate, could have widespread implications in a nation where half the states ban or limit begging. It could prove persuasive in future panhandling cases.

Predictably, Mitch Snyder, perhaps the nation's best-known advocate for the homeless, praised the ruling.

Snyder noted that it was consistent with Supreme Court findings that professional fund raisers have a first amendment right to solicit donations in a public places.

Contending that panhandling bans are unenforceable, Snyder said, "there's some activity you just can't regulate. When people are desperate, they will beg."

Snyder, of course, was referring to those who panhandle in order to eat. But many of Washington's panhandlers eat and sleep at the homeless shelter Snyder established on Capitol Hill.

Although adequately fed and housed, some of them continue

to beg on the streets in order to support alcohol and drug addictions that have rendered them desperate.

The begging backlash in New York comes from subway riders outraged by the aggressive entreaties of panhandlers who harass and intimidate them.

In Washington, daily commuters who once donated money to street people now object to the increasing numbers of them who beg and sleep at subway entrances.

Complaints from the public in Milwaukee prompted an ordinance that sets a fine for panhandling.

"It's effective to the point that we don't have a lot of begging in public," police Capt George Hegarty said.

Drew Cooper, 22, a student at Marquette University near downtown Milwaukee, agreed.

"I usually see one guy every two or three days," he said. That's about it, though. Once they ask, if you reject them it's so problem. They don't hassle you or anything."

But Milwaukee is not New York, where city fathers felt compelled to devise a military-style strategy to rid the subways of panhandlers.

The New York Metropolitan Transit Authority's operation enforcement was barely chugging along when it was derailed by a class-action suit filed on behalf of Papa Joe Walley and other homeless panhandlers.

Actor John Merivale dies in his sleep

LONDON, Feb 7, (AP): John Merivale, who played English gentlemen with stiff upper lips in such movies as "A Night to Remember," "King Rat" and "Arabesque" in the 1930s and '60s, has died, his family said. He was 72.

Merivale, who appeared on stage, film and television, died yesterday in his sleep in London's Charing Cross hospital, his family said. Cause of death was pneumonia following a long illness resulting from kidney failure, a hereditary illness that killed his father.

Although not a leading man, Merivale was a dependable support player and an integral part of the entertainment world throughout his working life.

Handsome, tall, courteous and charming, he was born into a theatrical family in Toronto. His father was actor Philip Merivale. His mother was actress Viva Birkett. His father later married actress Gladys Cooper.

Merivale was educated at Rugby, a prestigious private school, and Oxford University. But his Oxford stay was cut short, partly because of his father's financial problems.

Deserter freed

Proud to be back home

FORT SILL, Oklahoma, Feb 7, (AP): A GI who fled to East Germany 30 years ago for fear a truck accident would land him in the stockade was set free yesterday after the US army decided against court-martialing him as a deserter.

"I'm going to live it up," said 53-year-old Pvt. Arnold Kephart after his release from confinement at Fort Sill. "And then I'm going to sit down and try to work my way in life as I did before."

Kephart was arrested last week upon arriving in Omaha, Nebraska, to see his family for the first time since he fled to the communist bloc in 1960. About 30 family members were waiting at the airport, but only two got to speak to him.

Instead of a court-martial, the army yesterday granted Kephart's request for an other-than-honourable discharge. He had been held at the army base since Thursday.

"I don't know how I'm going to say it, but I'll say I'm proud to be back in the United States," Kephart told reporters outside Fort Sill.

Kephart took refuge behind the iron curtain after an army truck he had been driving on an assignment to France crashed while he was returning to his base in Heidelberg, West Germany. The truck also contained three corked bottles of French wine, he said.

"In the crash, the wine got broke up on our uniforms. The police, they thought that we had been drunk. ... We didn't have one single drink from the wine," Kephart told the Omaha World-Herald on Monday. Kephart said French police locked them up, and the soldier's superiors took them into custody.

"They told me that I would get prison. I would go many years locked up and then I would have to pay for that rig."



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Dispute over Reagan testimony

WASHINGTON, Feb 7, (AP): A US appeals judge asked government lawyers yesterday why Oliver North was not permitted to call former President Ronald Reagan as a witness at the former presidential aide's Iran-Contra trial.

Judge Lawrence Silberman of the US circuit court of appeals also asked why North was not allowed to see written answers Reagan supplied to investigators.

Government attorney Gerard Lynch told the court hearing North's appeal that the former president's written answers, which were supplied to a federal grand jury investigating the Iran-Contra scandal, would not have been helpful.

But the judge said the US system of justice is based on providing a defendant with a wide range of material for possible use in his defence.

"What troubles me is we don't have a very good idea" of what the president's testimony would have been, said Silberman.

Iran-Contra involved the illegal diversion of money from secret US arms sales to Iran to the Nicaraguan Contra rebels when such assistance was banned by law.

North's attorney, Barry Simon, argued that Reagan should have been called to testify to show that he authorised keeping secret the US connection to a November 1985 shipment of Hawk missiles from Israel to Iran.

Reagan's appearance had been called for at the time of North's trial last year but judge, Gerhard Gesell, rejected the request. He ruled there was no evidence in the record to suggest that the former president authorised any illegal activities by North.

On Monday, US district judge Harold Greene ordered Reagan to provide videotaped testimony at the Feb 20 Iran-Contra trial of former National Security Adviser John Poindexter. The judge gave Reagan and President George Bush until Friday if they wanted to invoke executive privilege to avoid testimony by the former president.

Greene also renewed his order that Reagan immediately turn over 33 diary entries to Poindexter, Reagan invoked executive privilege on that order.

North was convicted on May 4, 1989, of obstructing Congress, altering and destroying National Security Council documents and accepting an illegal gratuity. He was sentenced to two years probation, fined \$150,000 and ordered to perform 1,200 hours of community service.

Silberman said that if North had been working for the secretary of state instead of the president, there would have been no question that the cabinet member would have been called to testify.

Lynch responded that North had no direct contact with Reagan and that the former National Security Council aide formed "impressions" of what he was to do from his immediate boss, Poindexter.

North's attorneys contend Reagan's testimony would have been critically important in North's defence against the obstruction charge.



Oliver North. (Reuters wirephoto)

Mandela in intensive talks with govt

Ultra-rightist leader brands de Klerk a crook: delay in release may cost momentum, Boesak

PAARL, South Africa, Feb 7, (AP): Continuing to delay Nelson Mandela's release could cost the government momentum in seeking reform talks with the disenfranchised black majority, said an anti-apartheid leader who met with the imprisoned black leader yesterday.

The Rev. Allan Boesak said Mandela wants the government to lift the 3 1/2-year-old state of emergency and free all political prisoners, but would accept freedom if the demands were not met.

"His release is not in his own hands," Boesak said. "It is the responsibility of the South African government to release him."

The government wants Mandela, the most popular leader among South Africa's blacks, to play a conciliatory role when he emerges after more than 27 years in prison. He has been mentioned as a possible mediator of black-white talks on power-sharing called for by President F.W. de Klerk.

If his demands are not met, Mandela will agree to leave prison "but he will state his unhappiness with the government," said Boesak, president of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches.

Boesak said Mandela did not know when he might go free and was engaged in "intense contacts" with the government.

"He must be released soon or de Klerk will lose momentum," Boesak said after he and his wife, Dorothy, met with Mandela for more than three hours at Victor Verster prison farm north of Cape Town.

De Klerk, in a speech Friday, lifted a 30-year ban on Mandela's African National Congress, eased restrictions on other opposition groups and said Mandela, 71, would be freed soon.

Mandela considered the speech "bold, courageous and hopeful" but did not believe it cleared the way for talks between the government and ANC, Boesak said.

Gerrit Viljoen, the cabinet minister assigned to open negotiations with leaders of the voteless black majority, told reporters Mandela's release "is some-

thing that is to take place very soon."

In a later speech to Parliament, Viljoen said he envisioned South Africa being led by a coalition of parties in 10 years, with the long-ruling National Party no longer in charge.

Viljoen and Foreign Minister P.W. Botha rejected claims the government was obstructing Mandela's release by not repealing the state of emergency or freeing all political prisoners.

"Don't believe people who say the government is the only obstacle," Botha said, repeating de Klerk's assertion that Mandela's safety and personal considerations caused the delay.

An ultra-right South African politician branded de Klerk a crook today and declared that the country faced the prospect of being run by black communists.

Conservative Party spokesman Koos van der Merwe's remarks at a news conference came as de Klerk met his cabinet for the first time since his

bombshell speech on Friday legalising the ANC.

Van der Merwe said de Klerk had no mandate from the country's five million whites for the sweeping concessions he announced to the voteless majority of 27 million blacks. He declared that the Conservatives, who advocate a return to strict apartheid, now had majority white support.

"I say Mr de Klerk and his cabinet and his party are a lot of political crooks. Why didn't they tell the electorate on the 6th of September what they are telling them now?" he said.

"We don't want to be dominated by the Americans, the British, the Chinese or the blacks," van der Merwe said.

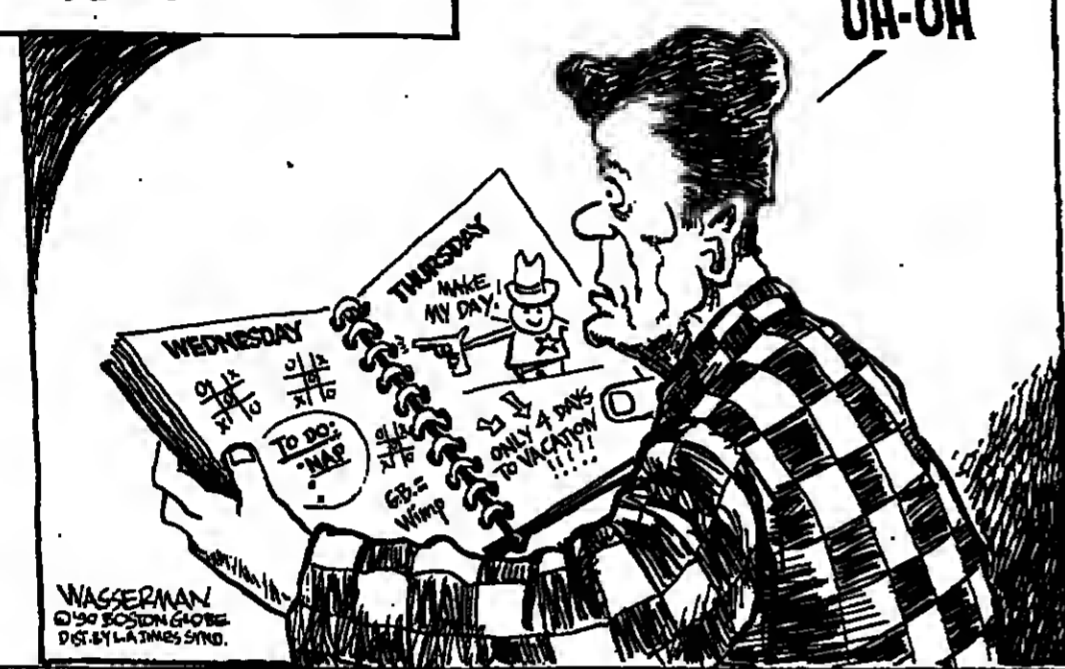
"We want to govern ourselves and what is facing us now is nothing but black ANC communist domination in this country."

The Conservative Party said it would stage protests and strikes to drive de Klerk from power and block his plans to share power with blacks.



Boesak answers questions. (Reuters wirephoto)

REAGAN ORDERED TO TURN OVER DIARIES...



BCCI turning over records

Drug money laundering

TAMPA, Florida, Feb 7, (AP): An international bank sentenced to forfeit \$15 million for laundering drug money has begun turning records over to prosecutors, including documents of financial dealings with Manuel Noriega.

The deposed Panamanian dictator was a longtime customer of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International branch in Panama. Court records show he maintained accounts totaling at least \$23 million at various BCCI branches before he was indicted in drug cases in Tampa and Miami in February 1988.

The government is trying to trace his money.

Although prosecutors didn't mention Noriega, they said the bank had pledged full co-operation.

Sentencing Monday resolved charges against the bank. Five bank officers remain on trial, including Arian Awan, long-time personal banker to Noriega.

US district judge W. Terrell Hodges listened to bank attorneys and government prosecutors defend the plea agreement before deciding to stick to terms of the agreement despite calls from Congress for harsher penalties.

The Luxembourg-based bank, with branches in 73 countries, could have faced up to \$28 million in fines. Subsidiaries BCCI S.A. and BCCI Overseas Ltd admitted to conspiracy and 30 acts of money laundering.

The two divisions pleaded guilty Jan 16 to cocaine-related money-laundering charges, agreed to forfeit a record \$14 million plus \$1 million in interest frozen earlier, and promised to open their books.

The plea agreement called for the bank to receive a suspended fine and five years probation, with banking practices supervised by the federal reserve system. Prosecutors also said they wouldn't bring any other charges against the bank arising from the \$32 million international money-laundering case.

"Those who have criticised the agreement are misinformed and did not understand the facts of the case," said bank attorney Lawrence Wechsler.

"This is no slap on the wrist," said Greg Kehoe, first assistant US attorney.

The State Department yesterday denied Panama was resisting US pressure to change its banking laws to prevent laundering of drug money, which the United States said was widespread under deposed strongman Noriega.

State Department deputy spokesman Richard Boucher said the United States has had "extensive discussions" with the new government of President Guillermo Endara on the problem and its bank secrecy laws with the aim of ending the practice.

Noriega surrendered to US troops on Jan 3 after the December invasion and was turned over to US federal authorities who took him to Miami, where he faces criminal charges of drug trafficking and money laundering.

"It has been clear in these discussions that the Panamanian government and its banking officials fully appreciate the disturbing extent to which their banks have been used to launder drug revenues," Boucher said.

Chart links cartel to Noriega

BOGOTA, Feb 7, (UPI): A Colombian arrested on drug trafficking charges was carrying an organisation chart that appeared to link ousted Panamanian dictator Manuel Noriega to the Medellin Cartel, police sources reported yesterday.

The suspect, Jesus Humberto Vega, believed to be a member of the famous Medellin cartel that reportedly supplies 80 per cent of the cocaine consumed in the United States, was nabbed by plainclothes agents Monday in Bogota.

When he was arrested Vega had a chart containing 28 names of supposed associates, police said. The list was headed by Noriega, who turned himself in to US forces following the invasion of Panama in December. He is now awaiting trial in Miami on drug trafficking charges.

The former dictator has long been suspected on working with Colombian drug organisations to launder drug money and ferry cocaine from the Andes to the United States.

A Bogota newspaper reported that this was the first time Colombian authorities had seized evidence providing an apparent link between Noriega and the Colombian cartels.

The chart also supposedly contained the names of individuals and companies that ran processed cocaine from Colombian clandestine laboratories through Panama and Mexico to the US border, El Tiempo reported yesterday.

Fourteen Colombians have been sent to the United States to face trial since President Virgilio Barco re-established extradition to battle warring drug cartels last August.

Also on the drug front, El Tiempo reported that US Ambassador Thomas McNamara told Interior Minister Carlos Lemos Simmonds the United States was confident President George Bush would be safe during his five-hour visit to Colombia on Feb 15.

Bush is arriving next week to meet with the presidents of Colombia, Peru and Bolivia to put together an international strategy to battle drug trafficking.

Nine days before US President George Bush meets three South American leaders for a drug-fighting summit in Cartagena, police yesterday found 80 kg (175 pounds) of cocaine in the Caribbean City ready to be smuggled out of Colombia, police said.

Cartagena port police said their men, acting on a tip, found the cocaine in a small boat inside a shipping container, due to be sent to Beirut.

Thatcher call for lifting ban

Mandela girl plea

Keep pressure

LONDON, Feb 7, (AP): British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said today a ban on new investment in South Africa should be lifted when Nelson Mandela is freed.

Mrs Thatcher, speaking in the House of Commons, was responding to reforms announced by South African President F.W. de Klerk last Friday.

"As we agreed both at the last meeting of the European Economic Community and in the Commonwealth, it is necessary to have encouragement for such steps as well as chastisement for what has not yet been done," said Mrs Thatcher.

"We do believe that when Mr Mandela is released, it would be advisable to release some of the very minor sanctions...in particular the voluntary ban on new investment."

At British insistence, foreign ministers of the 12-nation European Economic Community are due to review sanctions against the white-led government at a Feb 20 meeting in Dublin, Ireland.

Diplomatic sources say the Netherlands and Portugal are also keen to ease embargoes while Ireland, which holds the rotating six-month presidency of the community, wants to make no move.

Mrs Thatcher, a prime opponent of sanctions, lifted academic and cultural restrictions within minutes of de Klerk's announcement Friday.

Some sanctions imposed by Britain are mandatory under international agreements, including a ban on arms exports and the import of South African iron, steel and Krugerrand gold coins.

But other voluntary measures could be lifted by Britain unilaterally or after persuading some others to follow suit in the EEC or the 49-nation Commonwealth, the association of Britain and its former colonies.

TAMPA, Florida, Feb 7, (AP): The daughter of imprisoned activist Nelson Mandela said that foreign corporations should continue to put pressure on the South African government through economic sanctions.

Changes in South Africa have not eradicated racism in the country, Maki Mandela said at a news conference at the University of South Florida before delivering a lecture.

"Apartheid is still very much alive," she said, but added that there is real hope of reconciliation between blacks and whites in South Africa.

On Friday, President F.W. de Klerk lifted the ban on the African National Congress and other opposition groups, partially lifted a 43-month-old state of emergency and announced that Mandela would be freed along with some other political detainees.

The 35-year-old student and Fulbright scholar at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst was 8 when her father was jailed for treason as leader of the then-outlawed ANC.

De Klerk has said Mandela would soon be released.

If she could send her father a message, Ms Mandela said she would like to tell him "he should be strong. South Africa is facing most difficult times...it's going to be very challenging, times when everything will seem hopeless."

Ms. Mandela said the first time she can remember talking at length with her father was when she was 16. The two spoke at the prison where he lives, separated by the thick glass of a visitor's booth and closely watched by guards.

"I don't know my father that well as a father. We never had an opportunity to relate to each other," she said.

"I'm looking forward to his release...take walks, argue, debate," she said.

The violence in South Africa won't subside until apartheid is dismantled, she said, adding that she feared there would be backlash from right-wing whites to de Klerk's actions.

Non-binding measures include the new investment ban and a ban on tourism promotion.

The African National Congress (ANC) guerrilla movement says it is still drafting an economic blueprint for a free South Africa but favours a mixed economy.

A top official of the group said a decision on whether to nationalise big firms would depend on the strength of the economy once the apartheid system had been dismantled.

"The ANC is still formulating

Sanctions forced change in S. Africa

JOHANNESBURG, Feb 7, (Reuters): Economic sanctions against South Africa have worked.

Anti-apartheid campaigners worldwide hailed the lifting of a 30-year-old ban on the African National Congress (ANC) by President F.W. de Klerk last Friday and his promise of freedom for jailed ANC leader Nelson Mandela as a victory for sanctions.

Sceptical analysts who feared that financial and trade penalties would only stiffen the white government's resolve to cling to power and increase its hostility towards the outside world now concede that sanctions played a pivotal role in bringing political change.

"Without doubt it was necessary to put pressure on the government to implement reforms. One can't deny that sanctions have played a role in this," said Samuel Terrelanche, professor of economics at Stellenbosch University.

Others agree. "It would be naive to believe that sanctions had no part in the recent reforms," said Ronnie Bethlehem, chief economist at mining house Johannesburg Consolidated Investment.

Terrelanche added: "The answer is not now to impose more sanctions. If the US lifts sanctions, it could give de Klerk a boost to carry on with the reforms he has started."

"This game of sticks and carrots has to be played with great sophistication," he said. Economists expect the United States to take the lead in reassessing sanctions as it did in 1986 when Congress enacted the comprehensive anti-apartheid act, barring imports of South African iron, steel, coal, agricultural produce and Krugerrand coins and halting new investment and bank loans.

But few believe sanctions will be rolled back until the government releases Mandela and starts power-sharing negotiations with the black majority.

"A reassessment of sanctions is now called for by the US and the European Economic Community. But the timing is very delicate. If sanctions are lifted too quickly, it could alienate the ANC," said a Western diplomat in Pretoria.

They added that foreign companies would not be keen to invest here as long as the ANC advocates nationalisation of major industries.

Economists point to a landmark speech by former reserve bank governor Gerhard de Kock in 1983, in which he said Pretoria would have to devise a more equitable political system if it hoped to stem the flight of capital and revive growth.

They said the speech revealed traces of panic in high government circles about how severe sanctions were squeezing the economy.

Battle lines on the vexed sanctions issue are as clear inside South Africa as the racial divide itself. Most black leaders — in the ANC, anti-apartheid groups, the eburches and the trade unions — support them. Most whites oppose them.

"Sanctions have played a major part in bringing South Africa this far. To lift the pressure now would be premature. The time to lift sanctions is one political negotiations are underway," said reformed church leader Allan Boesak.

Meanwhile, local businessmen have become expert sanction busters.



Passports sold

A Chinese vendor in a Chinese neighbourhood of Panama City tells a photographer not to take her picture. In the past several years, some 2,500 Pan-

amanian passports were sold to Chinese citizens by government officials who made some \$30 million.

Haiti rivals threaten to boycott polls

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti, Feb 7, (AP): A key political alliance threatened Monday to pull out of Haiti's general elections unless the military government allows called leaders and United Nations observers to monitor the balloting.

Marc Bazin, the presidential candidate of the National Alliance for Democracy and Progress, also presented four other conditions for the alliance's participation in this year's elections.

They were that the government move up the presidential balloting to July, assure Haitians it will respect the constitution, release uncharged political prisoners and provide fair trials for those who have been charged.

"Our position is clear. If the electoral council does not modify the timetable, we will not participate in elections," Bazin said at a press conference.

Since the alliance is the only political group left in the campaign, its position casts doubt over the elections, which would be the first since 1987, when voting was cancelled after a massacre at the polls.

Other parties have refused to take part in the balloting as long as Lt Gen. Prosper Avril remains in power. Many candidates have also been jailed or deported. Bazin, an economist, is the only officially declared presidential candidate.

Nicaragua impeding US aid

WASHINGTON, Feb 7, (AP): The State Department accused Nicaragua's leftist government yesterday of impeding US assistance to an opposition coalition attempting to unseat President Daniel Ortega in Nicaragua's Feb 25 election.

Richard Boucher, a department spokesman, said the Sandinistas' delay in releasing all of the US money resulted in the curtailment of election support programmes and had raised doubts about the integrity of the election.

The Sandinistas have denied blocking release of the funds.

Boucher acknowledged that the coalition, the United Nicaraguan opposition, recently received approximately \$1.5 million of its \$1.6 million US grant.

The assistance has been delivered according to the channels stipulated by Nicaraguan election law, which requires that a 50 per cent tax be levied on foreign contributions to political parties. That tax goes to the supreme electoral council for election-related activities such as the printing of ballots.

The election for president matches Ortega against the candidate of the coalition, Violeta Chamorro.



With a portrait of himself in the background, Ortega gestures during an address. (Reuters wirephoto)

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Aspin blasts military spending

Cheney, Powell defend US defence budget despite political changes

WASHINGTON, Feb 7, (AP): The US government's \$292.1-billion defence budget fails "to match the new political realities at home or abroad," the chairman of the House of Representatives armed services committee charged yesterday.

Democratic Congressman Les Aspin said the argument by the administration of President George Bush that it needs a modernised force to get a US-Soviet agreement on reducing strategic weapons no longer holds true.

"You can get an arms control agreement with a robust" strategic budget,

Aspin said, noting economic pressures in the Soviet Union to reduce defence spending and congressional opposition to the administration's proposed increase in strategic programmes.

But Defence Secretary Dick Cheney said that without a strong strategic budget, the United States might get a poor agreement that would not serve its best interests.

"This administration's approach reflects old thinking rather than these new realities," Aspin said. "The problem is the budget doesn't match the political realities

at home or abroad."

In their third appearance before a congressional panel in less than a week, Cheney and Gen. Colin Powell, the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, defended the administration's budget against charges that it is a poor response to the tumultuous changes in Eastern Europe and the diminishing Soviet threat.

"The notion that it is not responsive to the changes does not hold up," Cheney said.

"There is new thinking in the (Defence Department)," Powell said.

The defence secretary said Monday the Bush administration's plan to modernise its strategic forces, reduce troop levels in Europe and cancel some 20 conventional programmes "preserves the elements of what we think is essential in terms of protecting the nation's security."

The budget proposal for fiscal 1991 would allow the United States to look back in a decade and say, "we did in fact undertake a build-down, a careful, orderly restructuring of our forces," Cheney told the Senate budget committee.

Pap test to save elderly

WASHINGTON, Feb 7, (AP): Pap smear screening to detect cervical cancer, combined with appropriate treatment, could save the lives of many elderly women, according to a study by the Office of Technology Assessment.

Medicare, the federal health care programme for the elderly, will begin paying for Pap tests in July 1990, and OTA said the screening will be most cost-effective if it is combined with efforts to encourage high-risk women to be tested.

According to the study:

- Women at high risk of cervical cancer are smokers, poor, non-white, were young at first intercourse and have had multiple sexual partners.
- Studies have found that women who have been screened are one-half to one-tenth as likely to develop cervical cancer as other women.

- Elderly women appear to have lower rates of localised, non-invasive cervical tumours than younger women, but the elderly have higher rates of invasive cervical cancer and higher death rates from cervical cancer.

- Since elderly women are less likely to be screened for cervical cancer than younger women, older women are more likely to be in advanced stages of the disease when it is diagnosed.

Citing National Cancer Institute figures for 1985, the report said 1.1 white women per 100,000 under 50—but 2.4 black women—died of cervical cancer. Among women over 50, the rate was 7.5 for whites and 21.1 for blacks.

The average Medicare payment for a Pap smear will be \$11.37, though actual physician and laboratory charges may be higher, the report said. The programme will cover Pap tests once every three years.

Drop in male cancer death

NEW YORK, Feb 7, (AP): The number of lung cancer deaths among men is expected to drop in 1990 for the first time since at least 1953.

In its annual Cancer Facts and Figures, the American Cancer Society predicted Monday that 92,000 men will die this year of lung cancer, down from 93,000 last year and the first decline since the projections began 37 years ago.

About 50,000 women will die of lung cancer, up from 49,000 last year.

Bush continues push for defence posture

'Now is not the time to let down our guard'

LOS ANGELES, Feb 7, (UPI): President George Bush, on the west coast to press his case for a sustained US defence posture, had words of praise for the reform efforts of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev but a warning for Americans that now is not the time to "let down our guard."

Overseeing mock war games at the 1,500-square-mile training reserve at Fort Irwin, Calif., where Soviet-style troops easily overran their play American counterparts yesterday, Bush took the occasion to applaud the new pluralism in the Soviet Union and concede that "events in Eastern Europe and in the Soviet Union have changed our strategic defence posture."

But amid the talk of troop cuts and peace dividends and the display of tanks,

troops and helicopters in the dusty Mojave desert, Bush backed the \$30 billion defence budget he has proffered for fiscal 1991 with words of caution.

"It is important not to let these encouraging changes, political or military, lull us into a sense of complacency. We cannot let down our guard against a worldwide threat, Bush said in remarks yesterday to the army soldiers gathered for the impressive display of high-tech military firepower.

Though the make-believe enemy were renamed Krasnovians—a move that "probably reflects the changing times," one army colonel acknowledged—the attack was based on Soviet techniques because he said at least 30 nations are armed with Soviet equipment or trained by their advisers.

"The Soviet Union still does maintain formidable forces," Bush said to dissuade those now clamouring for harsher cutbacks in US forces and major weapons systems in light of lessened tensions in Europe.

"Military challenges to democracy persist in every hemisphere and America must always be prepared to fight for freedom and security."

Concluding the pep talk at the start of the three-day campaign by referring to his recent visit to Panama, Bush said, "and now, back to war."

Bush was headed up the coast today to the San Francisco Bay area, where he planned first to tour the Lawrence Livermore National Weapons Laboratory and highlight progress of the "Stars Wars."

The strategic defence initiative, for which Bush wants almost an additional \$1 billion next year, looms as a prime target for congressional budget cutters hoping to win bigger immediate savings from the reduced threat of war in Europe.

White House Press Secretary Martin Fitzwater said Bush would use a mid-day speech before the Commonwealth club to defend the budget blueprint of his Defence Secretary, Dick Cheney.

And with 45 years of invasion of policy in the process of being redrawn, the President planned to address the collapse of Communism and "changes in our national defence posture as a result," Fitzwater said.

The same changed circumstances that have won persuaded Bush to propose deeper cuts in US and Soviet forces in Europe have emboldened his critics to claim he is not keeping pace with geopolitical realities.

Bush broke his silence yesterday by lauding Gorbachev's move to surrender the Communist Party's 70-year-old monopoly on power in the Soviet Union.

Conventional forces are not the only part of the budget under attack, and Bush heads next to address nuclear forces on alert tomorrow at strategic air command headquarters near Omaha.

Besides SDI, Bush must defend the \$150 million-a-copy B-2 bomber and the redeployment of MX missiles—systems the President argues must be modernised as technological bargaining chips to keep pressure on Moscow to conclude a strategic arms reduction agreement.

"As we enter the 1990s, the United States is shaping its military to meet a changing international environment," Bush said yesterday "one that may be potentially safer, but one that will almost surely have its share of uncertainties and dangers."

At a political fund-raiser in Los Angeles, Bush's remarks were interrupted briefly by a protester, one of dozens who demonstrated outside the posh Century Plaza Hotel.

The FEC data showed that the three Republican committees spent \$77.2 million of the \$80.4 million they took in last year.

But because of cash left over from 1988, the Republican groups entered this year already armed with \$14.4 million. The overwhelming bulk of that money—\$10.6 million—was in the coffers of the national republican senatorial committee, which is hoping to erode the Democratic majority in that chamber this year as part of a strategy aimed at recapturing the Senate in the 1992 elections.



Male bastion falls

Woman's Royal Naval rating Crystal Simmonds is given a helping hand on board the Royal Navy's HMS Gloucester in London Feb 5. Simmonds is one of 2,500 Wrens now entitled to serve on warships at sea. The Armed Forces Ministry announced the decision removing a male bastion of the Royal Navy. Several other Nato navies have women aboard their ships including the USA, Canada and Holland. (Reuter wirephoto)

Bush gets allies' backing

BRUSSELS, Feb 7, (AP): The Nato allies have unanimously backed US President George Bush's proposal for further deep cuts in US and Soviet troops in Europe, an alliance official said yesterday.

The offer will likely be put on the bargaining table Thursday at East-West negotiations in Vienna on slashing troops and conventional arms in Europe, said the official, who demanded anonymity.

The official said the allies may present additional proposals, possibly concerning combat aircraft and helicopters, at the negotiating session. He did not provide details.

Negotiations for the 16 nations of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation and the seven of the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact are under pressure to wrap up agreement by the end of the year.

An accord would dramatically cut main battle tanks, artillery, armoured troops carriers, combat aircraft and helicopters, and troops in a region spanning the Atlantic Ocean to the Ural mountains in the Soviet Union. The West wants to reduce the Soviets' ability to launch a lightning offensive.

The two sides must agree on definitions of equipment to be covered by an accord and a verification system for compliance.

Bush offered in a speech last week to set a ceiling of 195,000 troops for both the United States and the Soviet Union in Central Europe. The United States would maintain an overall limit of 225,000 soldiers, including forces in Britain and southern Europe.

Bush last May had recommended an overall cap of 275,000 for both sides.

The Soviet Union has an estimated 563,000 troops stationed in Europe outside its national territory, about 400,000 of them in the central region.

America

Aids among gays lesser: Fewer gay men are developing Aids than had been projected, a government researcher said Tuesday, but new cases among intravenous drug users are growing as had been expected.

Mitchell H. Gail, a National Cancer Institute epidemiologist, said a new study prepared by NCJ scientists says that the number of reported Aids cases among gay men began declining around the middle of 1987, around the time that the anti-Aids drug AZT and other Aids therapies came in to wide use.

The study shows about 30 per cent fewer gay men have developed Aids than had been projected by the public health service. At the same time, Aids cases among intravenous drug users have been progressing as projected. (AP)

Porn show prompts attack: When Pornography queen Anne Sprinkle performed her stage show, members of the audience might have thought they saw art. But when congressman Dana Rohrabacher heard about it, he saw red.

"The national endowment for the arts is at it again," the conservative California Republican exclaimed in the headline over a letter to his house colleagues accusing the federal arts agency of using tax funds to subsidise pornography.

Endowment chairman John E. Frohnmayer says his agency didn't underwrite Miss Sprinkle's sexually explicit show at the kitchen, a private, avant-garde performing arts centre in New York City. He said the endowment gave the kitchen \$60,000 last year solely for the theatre's operating expenses. (AP)

A nickel more to post: It looks as if it'll cost a nickel more to mail a letter in the United States next year.

The increase, which would be the first since 1985 and the largest ever, will be before the postal service board of governors when it meets March 6. If things follow their normal course, rates would go up in February 1991—11 months after the process begins.

There have been proposals to raise the first-class rate to 28 cents to 32 cents for the first ounce, but postmaster General Anthony M. Frank sees 30 cents as the most likely.

And he doesn't expect the raise to play well. (AP)

Smelled alcohol on skippers breath: A maritime pilot who said he smelled alcohol on skipper Joseph Hazeledwood's breath hours before the Exxon Valdez hit a reef and spilled oil at the wheel of a charter boat that ran aground, the judge at Hazeledwood's trial was told Tuesday.

However, superior court Judge Karl Johnstone said at a hearing with the jury absent that he would not allow jurors to hear about William E. Murphy's accident.

Murphy said his accident took place about two months after the Exxon tanker caused the nation's worst oil spill. He said the charter boat, which carried 13 children, ended its journey safely because "I drove it up on the beach."

After the brief hearing, the jury returned and Murphy resumed his testimony with Hazeledwood's attorneys launching a fierce cross-examination. (AP)

Helmsley denies her remarks

NEW YORK, Feb 7, (AP): Convicted tax evader Leona Helmsley, a billionaire, denies ever telling a housekeeper "only the little people pay taxes" and predicts she won't go to jail.

In her first interview since her August conviction, Helmsley told a US television network, Fox, that the quote attributed to her during her trial on tax evasion charges was "an out-and-out lie."

"This is the most ludicrous, ridiculous thing that ever happened to me in my entire life. ... We paid a fortune in taxes and I sat down with a housekeeper, and I said, 'do you know that only the little people pay taxes,'" she said.

"This is nonsense," she said. "I'm the one paying the taxes. We paid \$344 million. ... I really don't know where it came from."

Helmsley, convicted of evading more than \$1.2 million in taxes between 1983 and 1985, was sentenced to four years in prison and ordered to pay \$7.1 million fine and \$1.7 million in back taxes.

Asked how she would survive if her appeal fails, Helmsley said: "If I went to jail I'm not going to jail. I've done nothing. I can't believe that the system in the United States of America has stopped working."



Video cassettes destroyed

Over 300,000 pirate video cassettes valued at 450 million pesos (\$4 million) are crushed by this bulldozer Feb 6 at the tangle grounds where the (video) Expo 90 is now in progress. Destruction of the illegal tapes was sponsored by FAP (Federation for Anti-illegal Traffic). (Reuter wirephoto)

Latin America

Firemen race to save forest: Firemen are racing to save some 250 near-extinct golden lion tamarins from a forest fire that has ravaged a wildlife reserve for rare animals in southeast Brazil, officials said in Rio de Janeiro.

More than 250 firemen, police and biologists were unable Tuesday to check the fire, which started Saturday in the Poco das Antas wildlife reserve, 50 miles (128 kilometres) northeast of Rio, said reserve director Diomazio Pessamila.

Pessamila said the fire had burned about half of the 12,300-acre (5,000 hectare) reserve, the last remaining stronghold for the tamarin and a sanctuary for rare sloths, alligators, monkeys and jaguars.

Panels push aid to Panama: Two congressional committees in Washington moved Tuesday to provide the first slice of emergency US aid to help Panama recover from US trade sanctions and the December invasion that ousted Gen Manuel Antonio Noriega.

The House of Representatives Foreign Affairs and Senate Foreign Relations Committees easily approved identical legislation to send \$42 million in immediate humanitarian assistance and to enable President George Bush to provide another \$300 million in loan guarantees and incentives for private investment. (AP)

Rebel chiefs to run for mayors: The two top leaders of Colombia's M-19 guerrilla group registered on Tuesday to stand in two of the country's main mayoral races, a rebel spokesman said.

Leader Carlos Pizarro registered for the March 11 mayoral elections in the capital, Bogotá, and his number two Antonio Navarro Wolf registered to stand in Cali, Colombia's third-largest city. (Reuter)

Flag hurled at Queen

WAITANGI, New Zealand, Feb 7, (UPI): A demonstrator threw a furled black flag at Britain's Queen Elizabeth as she arrived yesterday, to speak at celebrations marking the 150th anniversary of the European settlement of New Zealand.

The flag did not hit the monarch, but fell harmlessly into her open car, and the queen smiled throughout the incident.

A young Auckland woman was arrested and charged for with disorderly behaviour, police said.

Several other protesters, most of them Maori, disrupted official speeches given to celebrate the signing in 1840 of the treaty at Waitangi between settlers and native Maori tribesmen.

Demonstrators waved banners saying Maoris had suffered 100 years of oppression and lost their land to the Europeans.

The queen's address drew loud applause from the crowd, which quickly shouted down protesters so that her speech could be heard.

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Kaifu changes election tactics

TOKYO, Feb 7, (Reuters): At the start of the Feb 3-17 campaign Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, alluding to the retreat of communism in Eastern Europe, warned of the dangers of socialism and appealed to voters to reaffirm their 40-year-old choice of democracy.

But now as the campaign progresses, Kaifu has backtracked on the democracy-or-death question, mainly because the public was not responding.

Senior figures in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party had criticised Kaifu's campaign line, saying that only a tiny minority of Japanese now seriously considered choosing the path to state socialism.

"Some say the LDP have defined this election as one of a choice between liberalism or socialism. That is an error. That decision has already been made both historically and globally," Kaifu now says.

He is now echoing arguments by opposition leaders that Japan made that choice after World War II when it ratified a new constitution.

"This election is about what to do with issues as we enter a new era," Kaifu said in a speech in Tokyo. He has toned down jibes at the divided opposition which figured in early campaign utterances.

Kaifu emphasises promises to stabilise skyrocketing land prices, cleanse Japan of money politics and rationalise the unpopular sales tax, all three perhaps closer to the hearts and minds of Japan's 90 million voters than high-flown rhetoric.

Chairwoman Takako Doi of the Japan Socialist Party (JSP) meantime brushes aside the premier's dire warnings in last week's televised debate, saying her party has long ago formally dropped the goal of socialist revolution.

Rather than meet Kaifu's earlier broad-brush attacks for word, Doi, in her stump speeches, has also focused more and more on concrete issues.

These include her party's plan to re-introduce the commodity tax, an indirect tax once levied on "luxury" items. It was abolished when the three per cent sales tax was introduced last year.

Doi's comments on the commodity tax triggered sharp comments from left and right, the LDP attacking it as "irresponsible" and the Buddhist-backed Komeito supporting it.

The JSP-led opposition majority bloc in the upper house of parliament passed a bill to abolish the hated sales tax last year, but it was killed in the LDP-controlled lower house.

All 512 seats in the lower house are up for grabs in the February 18 elections. Pundits say the LDP may just slide home with a simple majority, with the help of conservative independents.

Doi has also escalated her virulent attacks on the LDP's "money politics", zeroing in on the 30 billion yen (\$208 million) election fund the ruling party collected from automakers and electronic firms, which made a killing when the commodity tax was scrapped.

"This is double fraud, sales tax and money politics," Doi charged. Fifty million Japanese have now signed a petition calling on Moscow to return a group of small islands the Soviet Union has held since 1945, Kyodo news agency said today.

The signatures on the petition, which was started in 1965, represent about 40 per cent of Japan's 123 million people.

Roh stress on Koreanisation of defence

SEOUL, Feb 7, (AP): President Roh Tae-Woo said today that South Korea must develop its own defence system to prepare for an eventual withdrawal of US troops from the country.

Roh called for accelerating the move to an indigenous defence force after receiving a briefing from the Defence Ministry on various security problems South Korea is expected to face in the coming decade.

"We must pursue the 'Koreanisation' of our defence. American troops are here only to help us. We must be prepared to defend our nation with our own blood and sweat," he said.

In a report to Roh, Defence Minister Lee Sang-Hoon said South Korea will have to increase its defence spending substantially in the coming years to prepare for an eventual US troop pullout.

The United States announced last week that it would close three of its five air bases in South Korea in a cost-saving measure. The decision will mean the withdrawal of 2,000 of the 43,000 US troops stationed in South Korea under a mutual defence treaty.

South Korean officials later indicated they expected to discuss the withdrawal of some 3,000 more US troops, all non-combatants, when US Defence

Secretary Dick Cheney visits Seoul from Feb 14-17.

Lee did not disclose the amount of defence spending South Korea envisions in the coming years, but said his military would earmark more money for research and development to produce missiles, combat planes, submarines and other sophisticated weapons in the early 2000s.

South Korea, he said, spent only 1.5 per cent of its defence budget on research and development in 1990, but the amount will be increased to 3 per cent in 1996 and 7 per cent in 2000.

South Korea depends almost entirely on the United States for its weapons systems, but the

country recently has made impressive progress in developing its own weapons, including new army tanks more suited to Korean terrain.

South Korean defence spending is fixed at 6 per cent of its gross national product, which expanded at an annual rate of 8 to 9 per cent during the past decade. Last year's Korean GNP was estimated at \$194 billion.

As a deterrent to what he called the growing North Korean military threat, the minister said South Korea needs to maintain close security relations with the United States and share more of the costs of keeping US troops here.

Survivor

JAKARTA, Feb 7, (Reuters): A shipwrecked Indonesian seaman survived 10 days adrift on an oil drum by eating his clothes, the Kompas daily newspaper said today.

Tarodji, 22, and 15 other crew members clung to oil drums after their 125-tonne cargo ship, Galiga, capsized last month in a storm in the Timor Sea.

"I ate my clothes piece by piece because there was no more food," Tarodji was quoted as saying.

Drugs in sex orgies

SEOUL, Feb 7, (AP): Nine people including a department store president, a film star and a runner-up in the Miss Korea pageant were arrested and charged with using illegal drugs in sex orgies, prosecutors said today.

Prosecutors said the women involved were accused of taking the drugs while providing sexual services to wealthy businessmen, some of them foreigners, and were part of a high-class prostitution ring operating in South Korea and Japan. Prostitution is illegal in South Korea.

All were charged with violating the drug control law, which carries a penalty of up to 10 years in prison, prosecutors said. They said the suspects were charged with using marijuana and crystal methamphetamine.

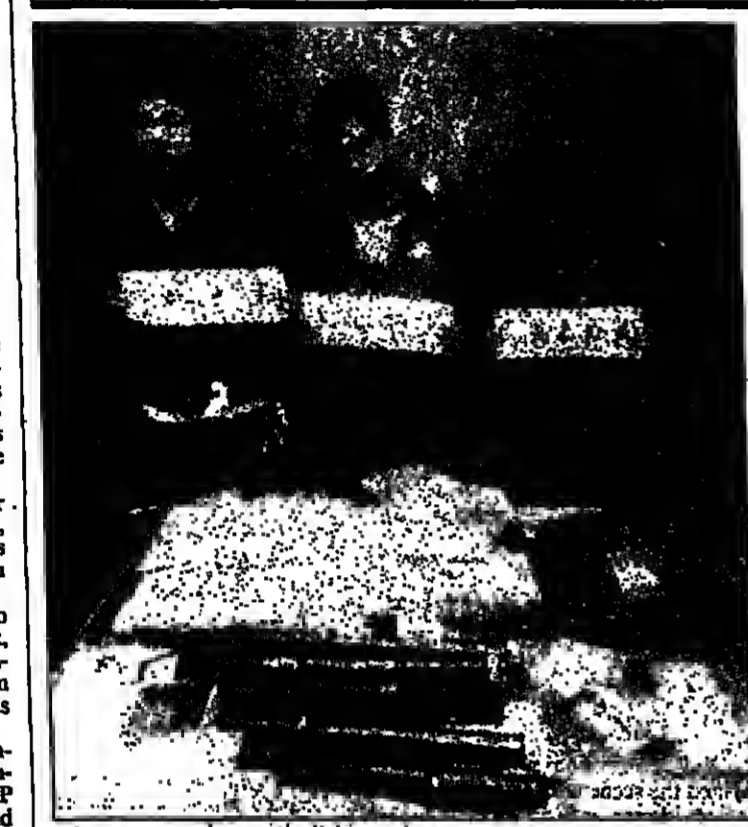
Those under arrest were identified as Kim Taek,

33, president of the Yoojeong department store, 26-year-old Choe Uo-Hi, a model and runner-up in the 1985 Miss Korea pageant, and Chon Se-Yong, 25, an award-winning film star currently appearing in the movie "It's Time to Go to Bed."

Also arrested were three television actresses, a woman identified as an agent for prostitutes, and two fashion models.

Prosecutor Chae Dong-Uk of the Seoul district prosecutor's office said the arrests confirmed "the drug problems is no longer just a problem of crime-ridden districts."

Chae said the arrests were the result of an investigation launched last December and were part of the country's overall effort to contain the spread of illegal drugs.



Taiwan police displayed three members of a gang of more than 20 people, all of whom are dead or mute, accused of robbery and theft. (Left to right) Su Ping-Nan, Chen Ping-Kun and Hwang Ku Fen-Tai hold signs with their names as they stand in front of some of the allegedly stolen loot. (Reuters wirephoto)

Taiwan speaker

Appeasing old guard

TAIPEI, Feb 7, (AP): President Lee Teng-Hui today nominated an elderly politician to be Speaker of Parliament in what critics say is an attempt to appease old guard conservatives in the electoral college.

Legislator Liang Shu-Jung, 69, was named the ruling Nationalist Party's candidate for Speaker of the legislature Yuan, the party said in a statement.

Liang is one of the 153 elderly members of the 283-seat legislature Yuan elected in China before 1949, when the nationalist government fled to Taiwan after losing a civil war to the communists.

The opposition Democratic Progressive Party has pressed for the retirement of the elderly legislators, who have been frozen in office to support the nationalist claim to be the sole legitimate ruler of all China.

"President Lee did not seem to realise his power base came from the grassroots rather than the nationalist old guard," said Lin Cheng-Chieh, an opposition legislator.

"We regret that Lee appears to be more involved in a power game than the democratisation reforms" he has promised, Lin said.

Sihanouk heads for his homeland

BANGKOK, Feb 7, (AP): Cambodia's exiled Prince, Norodom Sihanouk, arrived in Thailand today to prepare for his return to the part of his homeland seized by guerrillas fighting the government.

A Thai Foreign Ministry spokesman said Sihanouk was driven directly to the seaside resort of Pattaya and did not speak with reporters waiting at the Bangkok airport.

A spokesman for the prince in Bangkok, Roland Eng, said Sihanouk was expected to spend about a week in Thailand before going to Singapore. He would then return and travel to an area of Cambodia recently captured by guerrillas fighting the Vietnamese-installed government.

"I'm so happy," the 67-year-old Sihanouk said before leaving Bangkok for Bangkok. "I have nostalgia for my country, my homeland and my people."

Before the end of the month and after a visit to Singapore, Sihanouk plans to go into Cambodia, but exactly where was being kept secret, Eng said. The prince has said his home will be "inside Cambodia near Thailand."

The prince, who is the head of a UN-recognised government fighting a rival Vietnamese-backed government in Phnom Penh, said in Beijing that he was able to return because his army had recently enlarged the "liberated zone" of Cambodia.

He said he was ending his exile because of the growing trend in the West to recognise the government led by Hun Sen. "If I establish myself in Cambodia, they will hesitate before recognising Hun Sen," he said.

Sihanouk said he would concentrate on "social affairs" upon his return and would not cooperate with the radical Khmer Rouge group, which is militarily the strongest in the guerrilla alliance.

In recent months Western backers of the guerrillas have been increasingly uneasy about co-operation between fighters loyal to Sihanouk and the communist Khmer Rouge which killed hundreds of thousands of Cambodians when it ruled the country from 1975-78.

The battlefield successes of the Khmer Rouge since the avowed withdrawal of Vietnamese troops backing the government in late September have raised Western fears that the Khmer Rouge could come to power again.

In late January, the prince quit as president of the guerrilla coalition but said he would remain head of state, a title he held before being ousted in a 1970 coup. He said he would run for president if a political settlement were reached with Hun Sen and general elections held.

Sihanouk has given his support to a proposal for both the guerrillas and Hun Sen to cede power to a UN trusteeship that would administer the country until elections can be held.

Chinese party rules out opposition role

Strong signal to Moscow: non-reds may get posts

BEIJING, Feb 7, (Agencies): China's Communist Party will not abandon its leading role nor tolerate any opposition, its Central Committee has declared, sending a strong signal to the Soviet Union where radical changes are under debate.

A lengthy party document underlining communist determination to maintain absolute authority while giving some non-communists higher government posts was released by the official New China News Agency today.

The document was issued internally on Dec 30, the agency said. The timing of its public release reflected the leadership's growing

concern about reforms sweeping Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, Western diplomats said.

"Political organisations which oppose the four cardinal principles and endanger state power are absolutely not allowed to exist. Such organisations must be banned according to law as soon as they are discovered," the party document said.

The 'four cardinal principles' are the leading role of the party dictatorship of the proletariat, adherence to socialism, and Marxism-Leninism and Mao Tse-tung thought.

China's state-controlled media have not reported Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's proposals on Monday for radical change that could lead to a multi-party system in the Soviet Union and remove the communists' constitutional right to absolute power.

"This is an internal affair of the Soviet Union," a Foreign Ministry spokesman told reporters.

Despite the news blackout, many Chinese are aware of events in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe through Chinese-language broadcasts on foreign radio stations, including Radio Moscow.

"We are not going down that track" is what the Chinese are saying, one Western diplomat said. "China's answer is basically 'no way'."

While reaffirming total control by the Communist Party, the document also held out the possibility of government posts for members of China's eight non-communist parties, which at present wield almost no political authority.

Diplomats noted this was a new proposal and that non-communists had held ministerial posts in the 1950s.

China's rubber-stamp legislature, the National People's Congress, is due to hold its annual session next month and diplomats said it was possible non-communist ministers would be appointed.

The document stressed they would remain subordinate to the Communist Party with its enormous 47 million membership.

The Communist Party's leadership over the democratic parties is political leadership, namely leadership in terms of political principles, political orientation and major policies," the document said.

Leaders of the Communist Party would consult the other eight parties once a year, it said.

The key government witness in a major drug case has asked for US political asylum because he says he was a witness to the Chinese prison beatings and torture of pro-democracy students and journalists, it was disclosed in court Tuesday.

Wang Zong Xiao was placed under American protection by US district judge William Orrick in San Francisco.

Sixty-five people have been sentenced to death for selling women and children into slavery, the People's Daily reported today.

Another 3,535 people have been arrested for slavery and 2,937 sentenced in Anhui province, it said.

The death toll from a Yangtze River collision between a double-decker ferry and an oil tanker may exceed 100, an official report said today.

The bodies of 79 of the 150 passengers aboard the ferry have been found, and 33 people were still missing.

The number of Chinese known infected by the AIDS virus jumped more than twentyfold with the discovery of 146 infected drug users near the Burmese border, the Public Health Ministry announced today.



Memorial service

Ethnic Albanian children flash the victory sign as they attend a memorial ceremony for Mehmet Elupi, a 22-year-old Albanian who was shot dead by the

Yugoslav army. More than 10,000 ethnic Albanians gathered in Podujevo's cemetery Feb 6. (Reuters wirephoto)

Kosovo issue debated

Drunken policeman shoots two youths

BELGRADE, Feb 7, (Reuters): Yugoslavia's federal Parliament takes up the Kosovo crisis today in a debate certain to highlight regional feuds threatening to tear the country apart.

President Slobodan Milosevic will open the emergency debate with a report on an 11-day rampage by ethnic Albanians, mostly Muslims, in which 29 people were killed and 176 injured.

The Kosovo crisis has brought to the surface deep-seated animosities among Yugoslavia's eight republics and provinces — divided over language, religion and ethnic roots.

The eight-member rotating presidency, held by the Republic of Slovenia, has called the Kosovo riots a direct threat to the country's integrity and advocated moderation.

Dravoski is expected to press home this theme, putting him and some other members of the presidency, on a collision course with Serbia, the biggest republic which is determined to crush demands for more autonomy by ethnic Albanians.

Serbian leader Slobodan Milosevic rejected any compromise on the Kosovo issue on Monday and blasted the collective presidency for tardy action to stop the violence.

Most members of the presidency, which takes

decisions by majority vote, were reluctant to impose a solution by force. Federal riot police, troops and tanks were sent in to restore order and the rioting subsided over the weekend.

The split between those, such as Serbia, which want a headline central government stand to suppress any rioting, and those pushing for political compromise, such as Slovenia, is certain to spark heated debate today.

A drunken Yugoslav policeman went on a shooting spree with his rifle in riot-torn Kosovo province, wounding two teenagers and killing a cow, a local official said today.

After drinking in the village of Janjevo last night, the policeman argued with teen-age boys from the province's majority Albanian community.

He suddenly opened fire, wounding the teenagers in the legs, village official Josip Dodic told reporters. The boys were rushed to hospital and the policeman was arrested.

Earlier he had blasted away at a village wall, shot dead a cow and threatened a pregnant Albanian woman at gunpoint, Dodic said.

Serbia has controlled Kosovo since Yugoslavia was formed out of the wreckage of World War One in 1918.

The southern province has for decades been plagued by tensions between its 1.7 million ethnic Albanians and about 200,000 mainly orthodox Christian Serbs and Montenegrins.

Despite the shift in population in favour of the Albanians, Serbia is determined to keep its grip on the province which it sees as the birthplace of Serbian statehood in the Middle Ages.

Kosovo's Albanians, many of whom feel kinship with the people of neighbouring hardline communist Albania, have called for the resignation of the pro-Serbian local government, fresh elections and release of political prisoners.

Some ethnic Albanians have demanded Kosovo be given equal status with Serbia and named Yugoslavia's seventh full republic. Tens of thousands of Albanians shouting "glory, glory" marched in Kosovo province yesterday to mourn those killed in the riots.

Both Slovenia and Croatia, which have been pressing Yugoslavia to adopt the reforms sweeping Eastern Europe, have blasted Serbia for its crackdown in Kosovo.

Slovenia, which broke with Yugoslavia's central Communist Party on Sunday, went so far as to recall its 2,000 policemen serving with the federal force keeping order in Kosovo.

Japan has two space agencies. Nasda specialises in applied uses of space such as the launching of observation and communication satellites, while the smaller institute of space and astronautical science focuses on space science.

A satellite launched by Isas on Jan 23 from its space centre in Kagoshima prefecture nearby Tanegashima is scheduled to pass near the moon on March 18.

Costlier than defence budget in Japan

Business entertainment

TOKYO, Feb 7, (AP): The Maitre D' guides your party through the twilight gloom of the bar. You and your host, a manager in an immensely powerful Japanese bank, are invited to sit on a large divan.

You are at dinner at one of Tokyo's countless elegant restaurants, where kimono-clad women serve exquisite dishes, washed down with tiny cups of hot sake. The sake may be flecked with bits of gold.

And the cost of dinner may be more than \$3,000.

Afterwards, your banker companion suggests going to "his bar" for a night cap. There, a pretty young woman in a leather miniskirt snuggles against male guests' shoulders, pouring whiskey. Whiskey, in fact, seems to be the only drink in the house. Another hostess lights customers' cigarettes.

The bill for the bar: more than \$600. Japan's top restaurants and bars spare nothing on luxury. But the cost of Japanese business entertainment has gone through the roof.

Despite foreigners' complaints, a plea from the business community, and a political scandal that grew in part out of the winning and dining of officials, corporate entertainment spending continues to rise.

These days, dinner for four at a swank "ryotei" restaurant — where geisha hold forth with mournful ballads and witty stories and guests feast on prawns so fresh they wriggle on the plate — can cost one million yen (\$6,900).

Yet many Japanese companies expect their executives to entertain clients several nights a week at such restaurants and hostess bars.

In 1989, the cost of entertaining climbed 8.7 per cent to a record 4.55 trillion yen (\$31 billion), according to the national tax adminis-

tration, surpassing the 4.14 trillion yen (\$29 billion) budgeted for Japan's defence.

The rise occurred despite a call from Keidanren, the nation's leading business organization, for restraint in the wake of the Recruit Co. scandal over alleged bribery of numerous politicians, bureaucrats and businessmen.

The money is spent not so much on closing deals as building close relationships.

For small companies, entertainment expenses can make up 20 per cent to 30 per cent of project costs, he said.

This kind of effort can hobble a foreign enterprise in Japan.

Robert J. Collins, President of the American Club in Japan cites golf as evidence.

He says a golf excursion with prestigious guest can easily run to half a million yen (\$3,500).

Laying it on may include sending a limousine or even a helicopter for the guest and providing luxury accommodations by the green.

With long traffic jams snarling the highways out of Tokyo every weekend, "you go out there the night before, stay up late drinking, get up at dawn and go out in the rain and play all day long," Collins said.

"Then you drive four hours back to Tokyo and never once has anyone said a word about business."

Collins said the object is to endure an ordeal together.

Afterwards, he said, "I can get on the phone to a company chairman and he'll come out of meeting to talk to his golfing buddy."

After-hours entertainment follows tediously predictable patterns, Collins said: "Mutual appreciation over dinner, then some gossip."

Japan places satellites into orbit with the help of two-stage rocket

TOKYO, Feb 7, (AP): A two-stage rocket successfully lifted three satellites into their planned orbits today, the National Space Development Agency said.

An agency official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the H-1 rocket was launched at 10:33 am (0133 GMT) from Nasda's Space Centre on the island of Tanegashima, 985 kilometres (616 miles) southwest of Tokyo.

The official said a 740-kilogramme (1,628-pound) marionette observation

satellite separated from the rocket 40 minutes after the launching and entered its orbit for a two-year mission to collect data on the surface of the sea and earth.

Twelve minutes later, he added, an experimental satellite known as a deployable boom and umbrella test separated from the rocket and another five seconds later, a satellite to be used by amateur radio operators detached.

He said the 50-kilogramme (110-pound) experimental satellite will orbit

only 10 days, sending back data on mechanical movements in space.

The 30-kilogramme (110-pound) third satellite will orbit for three years, the official said.

Nasda, Japan's chief space agency, has had only one launch failure since 1975. Last August, the first stage of an H-1 rocket did not properly ignite and the rocket did not leave the ground. The rocket successfully lifted off in September

after repairs.

Japan has two space agencies. Nasda specialises in applied uses of space such as the launching of observation and communication satellites, while the smaller institute of space and astronautical science focuses on space science.

A satellite launched by Isas on Jan 23 from its space centre in Kagoshima prefecture nearby Tanegashima is scheduled to pass near the moon on March 18.

Iliescu to run for Romanian President

BUCHAREST, Feb 7, (AP): Interim President Ion Iliescu yesterday registered the National Salvation Front to run in the May election, and a top aide said Iliescu will be its candidate for president.

The Front, which has ruled by decree since communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu was toppled in December, will compete in the election against 29 political parties.

The Front's decision to enter the elections contradicted an earlier pledge not to contest them. The decision sparked wide protests when it was announced in late January.

Since then, the Front has agreed to form a council of national unity with opposition parties to run the country until the May 20 elections, Romania's first multiparty contest since World War II. The new council will meet for the first time Friday.

"Our candidate for president will be Mr Iliescu, that's for sure. That's what everyone wants," said Dan Radulescu, chief of the Front's commission for press and public relations.

Interim Prime Minister Petre Roman also said in an interview with US television that he wants Iliescu, a former communist official who fell out with

Ceausescu, to run for president.

"I hope it will be Iliescu," he told commentator John McLaughlin in the interview, which will be aired in the United States next weekend. A transcript was made available here.

Roman said he would not campaign to be prime minister but would probably accept the post if the Front wins the election and asks him to serve.

Iliescu went to the central tribunal to officially register the Front, which has split from the government and the eight-member ruling council.

In its platform, released yesterday, the Front said its aim is "realisation in Romania of a democratic society based on political pluralism, the separation of powers in the state, (and) the assurance of liberty and human dignity."

The tourism minister became the fourth member of the ruling council to resign today, accusing the National Salvation Front of "dictatorial methods" reminiscent of the previous communist regime.

As an army officer, the resigning minister, Mihai Lupoi, played a key role in the Dec 22 revolution.

Romania kids hit badly by Aids

BUCHAREST, Feb 7, (AP): Romania is in the throes of the first known epidemic of childhood Aids caused by contaminated blood and the constant reuse of needles, a French humanitarian organisation said.

Dr Jacques Lebas, president of the Paris-based Doctors of the World, urged the international health community to provide Romania with disposable needles and blood-screening equipment to try to stop the epidemic. "We know Aids from people who take drugs, homosexuals, and heterosexuals in Africa, but for the first time in the history of Aids, we are confronted with childhood Aids," he said.

"It's an epidemic," he said. "It's on the level of famine. It's an international emergency."

The Romanian outbreak is unique because it does not involve the transmission of the virus from mother to child, as happens elsewhere in the world, but from contaminated blood transfusions and needles, he said.

"In the adult population, the incidence of Aids is very low," Lebas said. "More than 98 per cent of mothers (of infected children) are free of infection."

The problem of childhood Aids is compounded by the widespread use of tiny blood transfusions (10 to 20 cubic cms) as a treatment for premature babies, sick children and the thousands of youngsters suffering from malnutrition, he said.

Aids in Romania was virtually unknown under communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu, who was toppled in December, because he considered it "a state secret," Lebas said.

Last month, Dr Ludovic Pannu of the infectious diseases department at Bucharest's Victor Babes hospital said 69 people had developed Aids since 1985, including 53 young children.

He said 33 of the 45 Aids fatalities so far have been children 3 or younger.

"Small children are prone to get full-blown Aids and Aids-related diseases because they have an immature (immune) system. The average survival of these children with HIV is probably years," he said.

Lebas had no updated statistics on Aids deaths. But he said an initial screening of 1,025 children up to 3 years old in hospitals and orphanages found 367 with the human immunodeficiency virus known as HIV that causes Aids.

Dr Ion Patrascu, a researcher at the institute of virology, said 60 per cent of the 283 children with HIV who are hospitalised have full-blown Aids. The children in orphanages who tested positive will be checked this week to see whether they have the disease, he said.

The children tested were from Bucharest, Arad in western Romania, Focani in the north-east and the southern Black Sea port city of Constanta, where the incidence was very high.

Patrascu said tests would be carried out at hospitals and orphanages in Timisoara and other cities this week.

"This outbreak is unusual in the world," Patrascu said. "We need specialists to come here from the United States, France, Britain, and other countries to decide what to do."

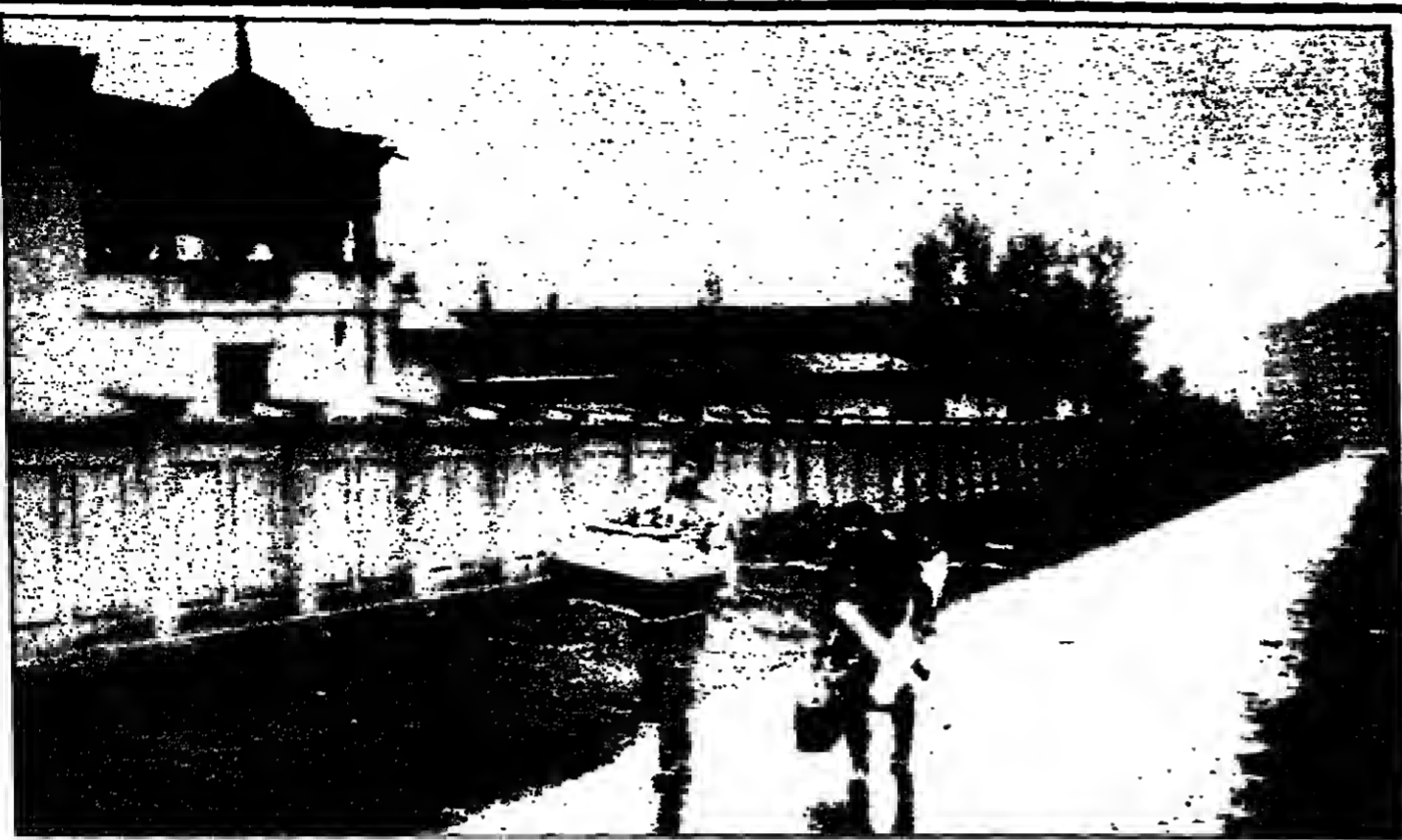
Doctors of the world signed a contract with the Romanian government on Monday to set up a laboratory in Bucharest to test for pediatric Aids, he said.

But Romania has no money to carry out a proper epidemiological study to determine the real number of Aids cases in the general population, Patrascu said.

"We hope when the general population is tested, we don't have this result," Lebas said.

He said he secretly took blood samples last July to test for the Aids virus in children and wasn't able to confirm his results until after the revolution, when the French organisation took 29 samples to Paris.

A team of experts from the World Health Organisation (WHO) has been sent to Romania to assess Aids epidemic among children, a WHO spokeswoman said yesterday in Geneva.



Burying the Aids dead baby

Romanian parents carry a small casket and cross as they arrive at a Bucharest hospital to collect the body of their dead baby who died of Aids. Hundreds of infants lay dying in Romanian hospitals from Aids

symptoms, a fact that up until the revolution was kept secret by the Ceausescu regime. (Reuters wirephoto)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Europe

Brain sent to research institute: The brain of the late human rights activist and nuclear physicist Andrei Sakharov has been sent to a research institute that studied the brain of Soviet dictator Josef Stalin, the Tass news agency said Wednesday.

Sakharov, the father of the Soviet hydrogen bomb, was exiled as the conscience of the country when he died in December. He won the Nobel peace prize in 1955 for his human rights activities in the Soviet Union.

His brain was sent to the Academy of Science Brain Institute, which was founded as a laboratory to study the brain of Soviet founder Vladimir Lenin in 1926, two years after Lenin's death, Tass said, quoting the labour newspaper Trud.

Results of the research on the brains of Lenin and Adrianov, he said, had suggested to higher authorities that the research be made public.

"No brain of any political figure was sent to the institute after the Stalin days," Adrianov said. (AP)

Scientists petition Thatcher: British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher was yesterday presented with a petition signed by 1,600 brain-drain scientists protesting about the "serious decline" in British research.

The scientists, including 24 fellows of the academic Royal Society and hundreds of other researchers with at least a PhD, left the UK several years ago. The majority are now in senior positions abroad, mainly in the US.

The petition expressed concern that British scientific research is being "starved" of funds and said the lack of jobs and career prospects are "major obstacles in our considering returning to the UK."

It urged increased British government support for science. (Kuna)

Court rejects release of deputy: A Greek appeals court rejected on Wednesday a request for the temporary release of a former Muslim deputy, raising fears of fresh clashes between Greek Christians and Muslims in the northern town of Komotini.

Ahmet Sadiq, who was elected the first independent Muslim deputy in Parliament last June, was sentenced on Jan 26 to 18 months in jail for disturbing the peace and inciting discord.

He was also barred from politics for three years.

Sadiq's defence attorney asked the appeals court to release his client so he could support his family. (Reuters)

IRA bombs aircraft factory: The IRA bombed the Belfast factory of aircraft manufacturers Shorts on Wednesday and threatened to kill all workers involved in military contracts.

A bomb exploded in a hanger where the company builds the Tucano training aircraft for Britain's Royal Air Force. No one was hurt and police said damage was minimal. (Reuters)

Storms battered Britain: Britain was Wednesday being battered by storms comparable to those last month in which 46 people died, weathermen said.

The winds reached south west England during the night, with gusts to 60 mile per hour, and were sweeping up the south coast early Wednesday.

London Weather Centre said the gales would reach their peak in the south-east including the British capital later. (Kuna)



Keeping mum

Reporters besiege Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov (centre) at the end of a regular briefing. Reporters were firing questions on the outcome of the Central Committee plenum, but Gerasimov declined to answer. (Reuters wirephoto)

Asia

Supplies sent to Samoa: Australia and New Zealand sent emergency supplies yesterday to western Samoa, one of at least five South Pacific island nations reporting extensive damage from hurricane Ofa.

Relief officials reported at least three, possibly seven people dead, from pounding seas and raging winds that cut a swathe of destruction over three days through the south sea. At its height, Ofa battered the island groups with 115 miles (185 kms) per hour winds before blowing out into open water on Tuesday. Western Samoa, with 170,000 people and located 1,700 miles (2,750 kms) northeast of New Zealand, declared itself a disaster zone. (AP)

Golf courses may be hazards: Golf courses are an immensely lucrative business in sports-mad, land-starved Japan, but some may be wreaking havoc on the environment and on golfers' health, the government said on Tuesday.

In an unprecedented move, authorities put a hold on construction of a golf resort in Nagano prefecture in central Japan because of possible environmental hazards, an official from the environment agency said. (Reuters)

Police rescue Colombian women: Thai police have rescued a group of Colombian women who were forced into prostitution by Thai racketeers in league with a Colombian couple, police said yesterday.

Police arrested Marco Fidel Rivera, 31, his wife, Elizabeth Galindo, 23, and two Thai men in Tuesday's raid on a house in Yammawa in central Bangkok. All four were charged with arranging prostitution and detaining people against their will.

The 16 women, aged 20 to 25, were sent to have sex with clients at hotels in Bangkok and given almost nothing in return except food and lodging. Police said some were beaten when they refused to comply. (Reuters)

BTA reported.

However, Semerdjiev, citing unspecified constitutional prohibitions, rejected opposition demands for access to the files of the secret police and a public inquiry into the activities of the state security, BTA said.

He commented four days after the end of a Communist Party congress that attempted to bridge differences between Marxist reformers committed to democracy and conservatives seeking to

Gunman kills two in Malaysia: A Malaysian man ran amok with a shotgun yesterday, killing two people and injuring 18 others before he was shot dead, police said.

The official Bernama news agency reported that Mohamed Ali Dawi went on a shooting spree at a community hall in Kampung Pasir Putih, Kuala Lumpur, where about 120 villagers had gathered to receive land titles.

Police shot and killed the 45-year-old Dawi, a member of the local home guard, after he had fired randomly for about 30 minutes. (Reuters)

King of Tonga rules out changes: King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV says he and his ancestry are keeping Tonga safe from communism.

The 71-year-old king said any change toward greater democracy in the South Pacific archipelago could spark a coup and the emergence of a Nazi-type regime.

The words of the monarch were carried in Saturday's edition of Matangi Tonga magazine following a rare interview. (Reuters)

Africa

Santos claims battle success: President Jose Eduardo dos Santos of Angola has said government forces captured the strategic base of Mavinga in southeast Angola from US-backed rebels, and he urged rebel leader Jonas Savimbi to accept government ceasefire terms to end the country's 15-year civil war.

Speaking Tuesday night at a meeting of Angolan farmers, Dos Santos offered Savimbi "humane treatment" if the guerrilla chief accepted a ceasefire based on a government amnesty offer leading to the rebels' integration into Angola's military, economic and social structures.

Dos Santos said candidates independent of the ruling Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) would be allowed to stand in election held after the war ended. (AP)

Witchcraft violence discussed: The president of a hiack homeland met Tuesday with 150 clergymen to discuss recent attacks against suspected witches. At least 14 people reportedly have been killed during the witch-hunt.

Frank Ravele, president of the nominally independent homeland of Venda, summoned the ministers to government headquarters to seek their support in combating the week-old outbreak of violence.

According to the independent South African Press Association those killed include people suspected of causing lightning to strike and others accused of carrying out ritual killings. (AP)

Demos in Bophuthatswana: Tens of thousands of people demonstrated yesterday in the tribal homeland of Bophuthatswana demanding reincorporation into South Africa, the South African Press Association reported.

The national news agency said the two-and-a-half-hour march was peaceful, even though police declared it illegal. Marchers dispersed after presenting a petition rejecting the homeland system to a magistrate. (Reuters)

Rebel attack on relief truck: Rebels attacked a truck belonging to the government relief agency, killing the driver and 11 people riding in the back, a state-run newspaper reported yesterday.

Noticias, Mozambique's largest newspaper, said 18 people were injured in the attack on Sunday in the central province of Sofala. (AP)

Authorities face public scepticism about the authenticity of the reform drive.

Although participating in the round-table discussions, the opposition has so far balked at joining a provisional government to run the country until multi-party elections, scheduled for May.

The new Prime Minister, communist economist Andrei Lukinov, is to present his new government to Parliament tomorrow.

Soviets blow up Czech dump

PRAGUE, Feb 7, (Reuters): A powerful explosion ripped through a Soviet military area in southeast Czechoslovakia yesterday, and Prague's Defence Ministry said Soviet troops had blown up an ammunition dump in violation of regulations.

"The explosion was a result of a breach of all possible regulations," a Prague Defence Ministry spokesman said after the blast was reported by Czechoslovak radio today.

"A powerful explosion in the Soviet military area of Libava in southeast Czechoslovakia occurred last night, sending a mushroom-shaped orange cloud into the sky and sparking a forest fire," the radio said. Fire-fighters were rushed to the site but could not gain access, it said.

Forests were set ablaze by the explosion, which the Defence Ministry spokesman said was caused by blowing up a dump full of artillery shells, anti-tank grenades, gunpowder and TNT explosive.

"According to eyewitnesses the cloud formed a mushroom shape from which ash began to fall on the surrounding area and village," the radio said.

The ministry spokesman said nobody was hurt in the blast but windows were smashed and buildings were damaged in the nearby village Staré Oldruvici, nine km (five miles) away.

He said the Soviet Army had agreed to pay for the damage.

Civil defence experts who visited the scene later had found no evidence of radioactive debris.

The latest incident is likely to intensify calls in Czechoslovakia for the withdrawal of the 75,000 Soviet troops stationed in the country since a Soviet-led Warsaw Pact invasion crushed the 1968 "Prague Spring" reform movement.

Protest

Czechoslovak citizens have been demonstrating recently against their presence and 30,000 people massed in Prague yesterday in the latest protest shouting "Ivan, go home."

Moscow and Prague are negotiating a Soviet troop withdrawal. The second round of talks began in Moscow yesterday.

The anti-Soviet demonstrations were criticised by a senior Soviet official in Moscow today, Czechoslovakia's official news agency CTK reported.

Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Ivan Aboimov, who heads the Soviet delegation at the talks, expressed his "sincere wonder" at the demonstration in Prague and other Czechoslovak towns.

He told CTK he was surprised at such emotional outbursts "at a time when these very important talks have been opened."

The fact the Soviet government agreed to hold the talks at all showed its willingness to withdraw the troops, he said.

There were also technical difficulties, he added, but the key problem was the timetable for the withdrawal.

Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel told East German Prime Minister Hans Modrow yesterday that he was worried by right-wing extremism in East and West Germany.

The two reformist leaders, meeting after separate talks between Havel and James Baker, agreed that a second Conference on European Security and Cooperation (CSCE) was urgently needed to discuss German unification, Modrow told reporters.



Baker lays a wreath at Vencesla Square in Prague. (Reuters wirephoto)

Baker warns East Europe

'No backsliding'

PRAGUE, Feb 7, (Reuters): US Secretary of State James Baker warned East European nations today that Washington would cut off economic aid if they strayed from the path towards democracy.

In a speech at Prague's 12th-century Charles University, Baker referred specifically to East Germany and Romania where, he said, rearguard, anti-democratic actions had undermined the legitimacy of their governments.

"We are troubled by indications that some of the governments in the region have engaged in practices that would obstruct truly free and fair elections," Baker said.

"Let me be clear: the peaceful transition to democracy now under way in Central and Eastern Europe will not tolerate rearguard manoeuvres from any quarter," he said.

Baker said Washington would view Eastern European nations on a basis of "democratic differentiation: any backsliding in the movement to create legitimate governments will isolate the nation from the support we can provide."

But he made it clear he regarded Czechoslovak progress towards democracy as satisfactory and proposed a package of political and financial aid to Prague.

It included granting most favoured nation trading status, export credit guarantees, and support for Czechoslovakia's application to join the International Monetary Fund.

Baker also proposed a joint study of Czechoslovakia's catastrophic air pollution which has cast a thick pall of smog over Prague during his two-day visit.

Baker suggested establishing an international observer team on behalf of the 35 signatories of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) to oversee all the coming elections in Eastern Europe this year.

He said elections should be internationally recognised as a basic human right.

Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel yesterday proposed that both superpowers withdraw all their troops from Europe.

Baker in Moscow: Baker arrived in Moscow today at a historic moment just hours after the Soviet Communist Party decided to drop its monopoly of power, fulfilling an American dream.

Unification support

SPD set to sweep

EAST BERLIN, Feb 7, (Reuters): A new opinion poll shows that East Germany's revived Social Democrats (SPD) are set to run away with the nation's first free elections, a race increasingly dominated by the influence of West German political parties.

The poll also showed a massive increase in support for German unification. It said 76 per cent of East Germans backed it compared with 48 per cent in November.

The survey said the SPD, heavily backed by the Social Democrats in the West, would win 54 per cent of the vote if an election was held now.

That put them way ahead of both the widely discredited but still-governing communists and also the pro-democracy movements which powered East Germany's peaceful revolution last autumn.

"There is too much interference in the election campaign by Western parties," said Gerd Poppe of the initiative for peace and human rights, echoing the views of many East Germans who feel denied a full chance to build their own democracy.

Poppe's group, the umbrella organisation New Forum, and the smaller Democracy Now announced today they would fight the March 18 election on a single centre-left slate, although they had not yet decided whether to field joint candidates.

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ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

WHEN men speak ill of thee, live so as nobody may believe them — Plato, Greek philosopher (427 BC-347 BC).

Omar under house arrest

Blind theologian remains enigma

FAYOUM, Egypt, (Reuters): At dusk a blind man in long white robes is led by his three sons from his home to the mosque across the road.

The Egyptian authorities regard Sheikh Omar Abdel-Rahman — the Muslim theologian accused but acquitted of inciting the assassination of President Anwar Sadat in 1981 — as one of the country's most dangerous men.

He is living under house arrest, cooped up on two floors of a small government-subsidised home in Fayoum, a pretty oasis city south-east of Cairo, with two wives and eight children.

Leader

The 52-year-old spiritual leader of the outlawed Jamaa El-Islamia is on trial for alleged involvement in street clashes last April, but a court order has freed him pending the verdict.

Officially Sheikh Omar can go where he wants, but more than a dozen security guards surround his house turn away visitors.

He is allowed out once a day to cross a dusty unpaved street to attend evening prayers at the tiny Sayed Kamel mosque. The guards fend off anyone trying to talk to him on his way there.

The guards point to a sign above the house's door saying it is a nursery school.

"And I am the headmaster of the school," said one man, his face nearly covered by a brown muffer, dark glasses and a black cap, who ordered journalists to leave — so as not to disturb the children.

Sheikh Omar's only contact with the outside world is the telephone.

He says he is not even allowed to attend the noon prayers on a Friday, the most important weekly ceremony for a Muslim.

"You will write that I said that, won't you," he said on the telephone.

Sheikh Omar wanted to give a news conference. But journalists outside his house were told he was out of town and would not talk to women.

He said on the telephone that he was in Fayoum and did want to talk.

Enigma

Sheikh Omar is as much of an enigma as the Islamic fundamentalists who support him, surrounded by so many myths and conflicting information which keeps the truth a mystery.

Dangerous criminal or persecuted blind man, Sheikh Omar shows up the rival views of Egyptians about fundamentalists.

Some think the Islamic militants are plotting the violent overthrow of the state to set up an Iranian-style regime.

Others believe they are the victims of a random repression made possible by Egypt's wide-ranging emergency laws allowing thousands to be detained without charge.

Fayoum itself yields few answers to those conflicting views.

In run-down backstreets near Sheikh Omar's house, there are many bearded men and the women are covered from head-to-toe, often in black — the hallmarks of Islamic militancy.

But elsewhere in the predominantly peasant town, women in gaily-coloured clothes with baskets on their heads carry on as the Egyptian Fellahs (peasants) have been doing for centuries, their lives little touched by political changes or upheavals.

Old men sit outside drinking tea under the winter sun and talking. A few tourists come to buy baskets and look at Fayoum's famous water wheels.

To the government, Fayoum is a hotbed of fundamentalism. But only the presence of dozens of soldiers, standing on alert after Friday prayers, gives any hint of tension.

Even today, the fundamentalist movement remains as obscure as it did 10 years ago before the murder of Sadat.

Fragmented into groups, it ranges from the Jamaa, initially a university-based grouping courted by Sadat to offset communists, to the Jihad — whose members killed Sadat — to the Muslim Brotherhood. Only the brotherhood has gained official tolerance and is allowed to sit in Parliament.

Solution

All offer Islam as the solution to Egypt's problems and are believed to have support in all levels of society.

Their influence is evident in the growing number of women wearing the veil and in increasing numbers of people who stop work to pray five times a day.

Many believe that it is simply because more Egyptians are turning to religion to find comfort from economic hardship.

Since Sadat's assassination fundamentalists have kept a relatively low profile but whether this is because they are weaker or better controlled is impossible to assess.

New Interior Minister Mohammed Moussa, who replaced hardliner Zaki Badr last month, is reported to be a moderate, able to talk to Muslims. Newspapers say hundreds have been released from jail since Moussa took office.

But Sheikh Omar says dozens have been arrested since Moussa took over and the word in Fayoum is that he is even tougher than his predecessor.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1560 — Turkish galleys rout Spanish fleet under Duke of Medina Celi off Tripoli.

1587 — Mary Queen of Scots is beheaded after being accused of plotting murder of England's Queen Elizabeth I.

1725 — Russia's Peter the Great dies, is succeeded by his widow, Catherine.

1807 — Indecisive battle at Eylau, Russia, between France and combined Russo-Prussian army.

1809 — Austria's King Francis I decides on war with France.

1872 — Earl of Mayo, Viceroy of India, is murdered.

1920 — During World War II, German Nazis shoot every tenth person in two Polish villages near Warsaw in reprisal for deaths of two German soldiers.

1940 — Russian Bolsheviks capture Odessa.

1949 — Eire declares it is unable to participate in Nato while Ireland remains divided.

1962 — US military council is established in South Vietnam.

1963 — Rebels in Baghdad, Iraq, assassinate premier Abdul Karim Kassem who is replaced by Abdul Salam Arif.

1964 — Holland's Princess Irene renounces her rights to throne to marry Roman Catholic Spanish prince, Carlos Hugo of Bourbon-Parma.

1974 — Three US Skylab astronauts return to earth after setting record of 84 days in orbit.

1975 — Soviet spacemen begin training with Americans for joint US-Soviet Apollo-Soyuz flights.

1988 — European Economic Community's 12 member nations deplore Israeli tactics on its occupied territories as illegal and repressive.

1989 — Muslim rebels fire rocket into crowded area of Afghanistan capital of Kabul, killing seven people.

Scholastic analysis

SIR: It is unfortunate that Dr Haider Mehdi's scholastic analysis of Kashmir situation, in your letters to the Editor leads respectfully to those sub-continentals who never cleared such mental blockages as Hindus and Muslims, India and Pakistan and are only too eager to keep their perception of rights and wrongs enveloped in those emotional hangovers. In those minds most political judgements must be polarised between two religious or political axes and without a little bit in between as a concession to a long-term historical vision. Over a hundred years ago if Abraham Lincoln lacked that "little vision" and thought that the answer to mass discontent was to preside over dismembering of a nation, I am sure the name Lincoln, by now, would have been consigned to the basement of the United (or Ununited) States history.

It will be a gross perversion of truth to claim that the Kashmiris do not have genuine grievances and they are not driven by a strong popular feeling for change. It will be equally presumptuous to leap to the conclusion, as apparent in the letter under discussion, that the solution lies in separation. If with every turn in popular perception of the ruling authorities, the pundits reach for the pen to draw an additional line on a nation's map, I guess, by this time next century the United Nations will take up half of New York City to sit all the delegates of the much expanded family of nations.

When I occasionally gain the privilege to enter the ivory towers (apology to the elephant lovers) of my academic friends, the world below glows up with such views as groups of unhappy people tearing up a long established existing order and living happily ever after. Alas! The reality is very different. Travel down the list of newly independent nations in the post-war period, and there will be no dearth of nations in which democracy and freedom of choice exist for only a privileged few. If Mehdi takes a sympathetic view of the Kashmiris and their current aspirations, he may like to remember in silence for a moment those millions who opted for Pakistan forty-three years ago and left this world disappointed that their cherished dream of "government by the people, of the people" never quite realised. As for equal rights and opportunities, the Mohajirs may have some unpleasant tales to tell.

For all its faults, Indian democracy is approaching its golden jubilee and it has not been without its share of success. If it has not always respected the legitimate rights of every minority, it has not hidden behind a curtain of religious or other fanaticism to legitimise its failings either. There are few countries outside of the first world, that persevered to maintain a set of institutions with enough powers to restrain self-serving regimes tampering with basic human rights. Leaving India, the Kashmiris will have to pack their bags well and travel a long way to find a mature democratic alternative that allows them freedom to protest.

Through the web of Mehdi's intellectual discourse on the subject it is not clearly visible on what logical foundation he builds his superstructure of an independent Kashmir or an enlarged Pakistan. If disaffection of the minority is an overwhelming justification, can one bring the green flag out to start Sind, Baluchistan off to their independent destinies. But we may be stopped in our tracks with the argument that there is no kidnapping, shooting and other forms of violence on that scale to express the dissatisfaction there. In wise parlours, it is doubtful if that argument will hold much water. I am sure Mehdi will be the last person to suggest that best response to organised violence is conceding to it.

One has to respect the popular backlash of the Kashmiris against maladministration and economic stagnation, but one would be lost for justification why such dignified people and a just cause be hijacked by terrorists murdering a diplomat on foreign soil and kidnapping a young woman. It is worth a conjecture that the terrorists' goal may not be identical with the best interests of the people of Kashmir valley.

Ignoring the terrorist factor in the situation, let us assume that the turmoil in Kashmir is a popular uprising to dismantle an oppressive regime of nearly half a century and not exploited by unscrupulous political ambition of a few. In a political system in which one Kashmiri's vote counts as much as any other Indian's and Kashmir is free to choose its state legislature to reflect its aspirations, it may be more appropriate to look for the villains in the corruption, nepotism and ineffectiveness of the Kashmiri politicians. If Delhi is guilty of any misdeeds, it is its tolerance and at times patronising of such elements for the narrow interest of the party. An independent Kashmir would be the ideal solution, if one could produce convincing arguments that with every accession, politics moved to higher ethical plateaus and angels descended from the political heavens. Evidence to the contrary is overwhelming, one just has to look round.

If an argument is advanced that Kashmir's few million Muslims cannot influence the national politics, it will only be natural to extend that argument infinitely to cover any other ethnic, religious and other groups. In its ridiculous extremes, every community, however small, can disappear into an insular cell. Social and political fragmentation is a process that has the same natural instincts as the biological cell division. Unchecked, it follows its unending cycle and the concept of such things as society, state and federation become objects of intellectual curiosity only. I hope we do not arrive in the twenty first century with an unfortunate legacy of founding nations on the affinity of customs, language or religion. After centuries of animosity, Europeans are now discovering that one does better by harnessing what is common amongst them rather than what is uncommon.

Unification of Europe through steadily growing Common Market would testify to that. As to highly charged issue of religion, perhaps it is worth noting at this stage that there is no conclusive evidence in the annals of modern world that religion has been more successful than other human heritage to forge a strong and durable nation. The very thought that Kashmir's journey to Utopia can only be along a religious doctrine may prove illusory.

To sum up, the answer to Kashmir is not an amputation of a nation that tries hard to make secularism and freedom of political choice the sacrosanct principles guiding its destiny, in spite of such powerful diversionary forces as poverty, corruption and tensions of holding a country of India's diversity together. Removal of Kashmir, in all probability, will pave the way for the eventual Balkanisation of India. This can only destabilise the whole of South Asia and make room for the expansionists from outside. We may achieve more for ourselves and posterity, if

we stick with the unfinished task set by the lofty ideals of Indian constitution, and continue to bear the pains of doing so. The Kashmiris, even with the best intention in the world, may find secession is not an instant passport to social and political justice. Even if they manage to leave India taking with them the virtues of the system they leave behind, they will, at best, be starting all over again to reinvent the same wheel as India has laboured on for so long, quite possible, great Kashmiri hopes will end up with a smaller and weaker wheel, not strong enough to stand up to periodic assaults on the system by unscrupulous political ambitions. Would it not be better to live in a federal system where diversity provides the best long-term insurance against extremism?

Subir Ray,
Safat.

Human behaviour

SIR: In fact, the behaviour of people around and as per experience inspired me to write this article, to be precise, the behaviour of men. A behaviour which endangers the life of the opposite sex. Woman, who is the weaker sex, easily falls in the hands of such men. I'm not talking in mass, but to the concerned individuals, they know themselves, and they know who they are. How do these concerned individuals love to stay in the dark or somewhere else where they will wait for their prey. And this prey, who is the opposite sex who doesn't like to be jeopardised will try to defend herself in any way. And how would these concerned individuals like to be glared at and to hear nasty words being shouted at them. Why do they behave this way?

Scientifically speaking, we human beings who belong to the highest form have the will and intellect to know and to differentiate what is right and wrong, what is good and bad lower themselves to the lowest form of animal that has no will and intellect, that has no direction and aim in life. In this case, these concerned individuals, are only after their bodily desires or earthly pleasures but they did never care nor think about the danger or risk they may bring about to the opposite sex due to their misbehaviour.

Based on several reports on the newspaper, wherein, there are some who abused and exploit their maids. Don't they have hearts and minds? Don't they feel guilty and afraid of what they are doing? It's a pity to those who are being exploited and abused namely, less fortunate maids. And due to this trauma, some of the victims become numb, and others become insane, due to the fact that they can't accept how they were being exploited and abused.

Furthermore, these concerned individuals are considered the terminus of society. Terminus of society in the sense that, they ruined the life, dreams and the future of these less fortunate individuals. In addition, the dignity, purity or in other words, the virginity of a woman that she protected for years will only be robbed in a minute. How terrible!

More so, these concerned individuals should have in their minds that, "a woman is not a thing to be possessed, but a person to be cherished." Nevertheless, the truth hurts, but they should be humble enough to accept the truth, for it is in accepting the truth, that they have done the initial move for a better change.

Yes, this is criticism, but there are two kinds of criticism. One is destructive criticism, a criticism without any good purpose but to insult and destroy an individual. Whereas, constructive criticism which in my point of view, is the kind of criticism whose purpose or aim, is to help these concerned individuals realise and straighten their weak points and misbehaviour in order to build them up to a better person and to bring welfare to the opposite sex as well.

Lastly, it is in solitude that one may have peace of mind, wherein one could closely examine his inner self. Hence, it won't take long for an individual to make a better change, provided, he is humble to realise and accept his mistake. And, he lessens the terminus of society. Likewise, he becomes a man of values and principles.

Chato Lacero Valdez,
Al Nizha.

Proud Muslim

SIR: I am a Muslim and proud to be one. Let me remind all the readers, Muslim and non-Muslim, that the first duty of Islam is to spread the message of Allah to each and every one peacefully and with love. I admit that I have not been able to do so, so far, and I am ashamed of it. But why must we stop others from doing so?

Our beloved prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said: "A man should learn and spread knowledge from his womb to his tomb." Then why is it that people criticise others who are doing so?

Recently another such controversy has started about a man named 'Sedik' in France who has published 'The Holy Quran' in the form of a comic. And the so-called Islamic leaders instead of encouraging him are on the contrary criticising and belittling his efforts in spreading the message of God.

So far I have not seen anywhere that he has written in the comics something against 'The Holy Quran'. He has just translated and illustrated 'The Quran' in the form of comics so that little children, who are fond of them, will take more interest in reading it and understand it much better.

Had he published his work before the 'Salman Rushdie' controversy, he would have been held in high regard and his work would have been appreciated. All the fingers are not of the same size. Just because one man disgraces something and another man tries to help does not mean that he has bad intentions too.

These Islamic leaders and 'maulanas' just to get their names in the paper, are trying to accuse someone of sacrilege, even though he is trying to do just the opposite. The 'Bible' has been turned into comics and so have the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. Is he not a prophet too? Why don't these people criticise this, then.

Anyway, to each his own beliefs. But I will say and say I shall that: "A man who promotes and spreads the teachings of God in any harmless way whatsoever, should be held in high regard and respected — not demoted to the ranks of heathens and blasphemers."

Sohail Javed Butt,
Kuwait.

Biased coverage

SIR: I strongly agree with all the contents of the letter headlined "Be objective" sent by Abdel Majeed Ismail, Cairo, Egypt published on 29-1-

90. For a long time I have been observing that your attitude towards Pakistan is totally prejudiced if compared with India. Like Arab Times, other daily Arabic newspapers have adopted the same attitude towards Pakistan.

I do not know what wrong Pakistan has done that makes Arab Times hate Pakistan. Openly Pakistan is backing the PLO and supporting the fight for Palestine liberation, on the other hand, with the same aims and purposes like Palestinians, our Kashmiri brothers are fighting struggling and sacrificing their lives for the liberation of Kashmir. Why is it that the "intifada" of Kashmiris is not similar to the "intifada" of the Palestinians? The point of view of Arab Times is hopeless and despairs Kashmiris and my country, Pakistan. Whenever you publish a map of the subcontinent you always show Kashmir as a part of India, you must be aware that Jammu and Kashmir is disputed area and must not be shown as part of India.

I am very sorry to state that your newspaper always declines to give any good news about Pakistan, moreover your staff does not like to give any news about Pakistan. I do not understand your paper's attitude.

I also notice your paper uses the words "separatist" to describe Kashmiri liberators who are fighting for the same freedom as Palestinians and Afghan mujahideen. Why do you not call the fight by Kashmiris as jihad?

Kashmiris point of view is very clear and the UN had passed a resolution for the Kashmir problem, and according to the UN resolution, Kashmiris are struggling and fighting for their fundamental rights as Palestinians are.

Our Kashmiri and Palestinian brothers are fighting for their land. Because Kashmiris are non-Arab and Palestinians are Arab, that is why your paper is discriminating against them.

Being a Muslim and just journalist, your staff must take sides with Pakistan and Kashmir.

I hope your paper would take positive action and would become a true paper.

Mohammed Akram,
Safat.

Transportation woes

SIR: I just returned from an overland trip to Iraq, and I would like to publicly comment about the appalling mismanagement of transportation at the border. Bus service from Kuwait City to Abidji is fine, and waiting in lines to get one's passport stamped is expected. But after the official paperwork, we found that the only way for those not driving their own vehicles to cross the border was by a sole Kuwaiti bus which shuttles back and forth between Abidji and Safwan.

After waiting an hour for this bus, and purchasing our half-dinar tickets for a two-minute ride, we knew that the crowd of people and luggage waiting would never go on one bus. Once the doors were open, people pushed and shoved their way into the bus, as if their lives depended on it. Then, incredibly, the police arrived and made everyone to get off.

Realising how hopeless the situation was, we managed to find a ride across the border in a private car of some kind Iraqi.

Our trip back the following week from Safwan to Abidji was even worse. Once again, there was a mad rush to get on the bus. Because we weren't able to get a place, we tried to walk across the border. However, soldiers there told us this was "forbidden." After waiting three hours in Safwan, we finally did manage to get on the bus when it returned. This time, an Iraqi employee conducted an on-the-spot customs search as people clawed their way onto the bus!

In general, the Kuwaiti bus system is good and reliable. Why can't this glaring problem at the border be corrected? The current conditions encourage people to act like trapped animals. And the situation is both sad and demeaning to those involved. It's obvious that one bus is not enough to handle the crowds. Couldn't another bus or two be added, at least at peak periods? If they came more frequently, maybe people wouldn't panic and think they might not get a seat. Alternatively, why not sell only enough tickets to fill the bus? Then people would know that once they get a ticket, they would surely get a seat.

George Leiman
Salamiya

Good cause

SIR: News of Rajneesh's death reached me on Jan 21. After two days a report said he had died of poisoning which contradicted an earlier one that said he had died of natural causes.

He survived poisoning in America whilst in jail. He had a commune in Pune, India named after him.

I am also religious but don't advocate his brand of religion. He had around 10,000 followers out of which 5,000 were foreigners, and the rest well-to-do people.

Every human being is responsible for his/her actions. Awards are given according to deeds.

A poor 15-year-old girl named K.V. Shobha, who needs a heart operation had advertised in papers (Arab Times, 14/1/90) for help. She happens to be a neighbour of Rajneesh in Nagpur. Why didn't he help?

On reading about this unfortunate girl I rallied my friends and we sent something. I hope our little contribution will help her.

K.V. Shettagar,
Hawaii.

Pertinent issues

SIR: The embassy clarification (Fund Collection Appeal, Feb 6th, raised many pertinent issues. It appears that officials present in the meeting are living in an ivory tower, while they are busy making attractive public appearances. It seems to be oblivious of the real issue. Defending Noor and his disgraceful activities should not be the embassy's only objectives.

Instead of defending Noor's good faith, Syed Iqbal, press and cultural attaché, should actually take up the matter with the gentleman and punish him for his "disgraceful appeal" and his moral crime which he committed by converting the social party meeting into a chance of gaining personal publicity by misinforming the outcomes of the social meeting to the local press.

I believe, Syed Iqbal and the embassy's problems are greater than that of Noor and they should concentrate on them.

S. Khan
Al Shaab.

Kinnoek: up in polls

LONDON, (Reuters): Britain's opposition Labour Party, trounced in the past three general elections, is suddenly odds-on favourite to win the next.

For the first time in eight years, one of the country's biggest bookmakers this week gave odds against Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's Conservatives beating Labour at the ballot box.

What's more, the odds on Neil Kinnoek's new-look Labour party ending a decade out of power shortened to 4-6 as the wagers rolled in. Thatcher must call the election by mid-1992.

Ladbroke's bookmaking chain quotes the Conservatives at 11-10 against, from even money at the beginning of the month.

The odds reflect a combination of Labour's own rising political credibility, government problems with the economy and health service, and the steady decline of centre parties which drew support at Labour's expense in the 1980s.

They are also a personal tribute to Kinnoek, who close friends say went through "absolute hell" to reshape the party after its last, shattering election defeat in 1987.

Kinnoek was elected Labour leader in 1983, aged only 41. In November this year, he will set an unwanted political record by becoming the longest-serving leader of the opposition in British political history.

Milestone

But he passed a more important milestone this month, edging Thatcher in an opinion poll for the first time as the voters' preferred choice for prime minister.

It is a narrow lead, 34 to 33 per cent of people surveyed. But it marks a sharp improvement in Kinnoek's personal standing, which lagged far behind Thatcher even during the past year, when Labour consistently won 10 points or more ahead of the Conservatives.

This month's Gallup poll for the pro-government Daily Telegraph put Labour's lead at 15.5 per cent, the highest since Labour last won a general election in 1974. The Telegraph called the poll "grave political news for the Conservatives."

Thatcher is gambling that a healthy economy will restore Conservative fortunes before the next election by a concerted effort to bring down currently high inflation, and interest rates, which will almost certainly mean a tough budget in March.

But the consistency of Labour's performance over the past year has led commentators to predict a swing in the political spectrum, from Margaret Thatcher's editor Martin Jacques to Joe Rogly in the pro-business Financial Times, to agree that "a Kinnoek election victory now seems plausible."

Review

Since 1987, Kinnoek has forced a complete policy review upon a sometimes reluctant party, dropping vote-losing positions such as a commitment to unilateral nuclear disarmament and cleaning up Labour's strife-torn image.

The new policies, approved at last October's party conference, steer Labour away from the traditional domestic and foreign policy positions with which it was once associated towards a more moderate stance.

Kinnoek's main reward so far has been a shift in public perception. "The problem was that many people believed Labour was somehow untrustworthy," he said in an interview last year.

"People are beginning to see Labour as an alternative government," said Vernon Bogdanor, a political scientist at Oxford University. "That's a great psychological change."

The Labour leader's efforts prompted Robin Oakley, political editor of the pro-government Times, to call him last year's "politician of the year."

"Labour's solid lead in the opinion polls cannot be explained entirely by the government's mistakes," he wrote. "Much of Labour's surge must be attributed to Neil Kinnoek."

Oakley and others see Kinnoek now as having garret control over his ministers-in-waiting, the "shadow cabinet," than any Labour leader in the past 30 years.

Image

But others feel he must shed the image of a "weak, wet, Welsh windbag," pinned upon him most forcefully by Sir John Major, the outspoken ex-editor of the right-wing Sunday Express, to be taken seriously as the next prime minister.

"He loves the cadence of three adjective in a row. He cannot resist padding out his speech with meaningless phrases," noted a Times profile.

Since cameras entered the House of Commons late last year, Kinnoek has endeavoured to ask shorter, sharper questions during Thatcher's twice-weekly question time.

But just as Kinnoek was gaining praise from unexpected quarters, a surprise attack in the left-leaning Guardian by Hugo Young, author of a critical biography of Thatcher, angered his closest aides.

"Wooliness never seems far away. He sometimes appears not to know what he is talking about... the record of his uncertainty and confusion is embarrassingly long," Young declared.

"Labour... could well be set for victory at the election, were it not for its great misfortune in having the wrong leader."

Quote me

"America, Britain and Japan are critical factors in the equation to end apartheid. They must use their pressures... to provide incentives for a free and democratic South Africa. We must accept the fact that apartheid is a form of sanction. Apartheid itself is a racial sanction... we feel that apartheid and sanctions should end on the same day." — Jesse Jackson.

"I have no doubt that posterity will pronounce that I was innocent, and that the criminals that should have been brought before the court are the members of the government." — Nelson Mandela.

"This is just the beginning for Kenya. In the past there have been no good marathon runners but in the future, this will change. Now any kid growing up will think of the Commonwealth Games." — Douglas Wakihini.

"The number of those present today is sufficient to storm the Winter Palace and the Lubyanka. If peaceful revolution fails, we shall have to make a different one. The Communist Party is in the way of democratization. We shall have to make a different one. The Communist Party is in the way of democracy." — Igor Chubai, a radical Soviet communist to a party plenum.

JAWHAR LAL NEHRU

MIDEAST

No interest in 'adventurism:' Iran

NICOSIA, Feb. 7, (Reuters). President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani declared today Iran had no interest in Islamic "adventurism" and appealed to foreign countries for economic help.

"Iran is ready to begin a new reconstruction era with all-out co-operation," he said, referring to Iran's new five-year plan which envisages \$27.6 billion in foreign credit.

"As far as we are concerned the field is open for co-operation with those governments which want to sincerely co-operate with us."

The speech, as reported by Tehran Radio, did not contain any direct mention of the United States or other governments often attacked by the late Ayatollah Khomeini and Iran's other clerical leaders.

His mild tone reflected the image of moderation Rafsanjani has been seeking to give Iran since he was elected in July.

The five-year plan received final approval last week on the eve of the 10-day dawn celebrations marking the period from Khomeini's return from exile on February 1, 1979, to the downfall

of the Shah's pro-Western monarchy 10 days later.

"Iran's Islamic revolution is not bent on creating tension and adventurism in the Gulf or anywhere else. Others must judge our Islamic revolution and republic with fairness," Rafsanjani said.

Tehran denies involvement in hostage-taking in Lebanon and other anti-Western acts by pro-Iranian groups in the region.

Iranian papers last month dismissed reports in the official Soviet press that Azari national-

ists received weapons from across the border in Iran during unrest in Soviet Azerbaijan.

Rafsanjani said Iran attached great importance to the security of the Gulf region — where a third of the world's oil is produced, much of it carried by tanker through the waterway in markets overseas.

"From the bottom of our hearts we are opposed to any kind of tension, war-mongering and injustice. This is best born out by the situation at our frontiers, except with Iraq," the president said.

Halt to Jewish influx: PLO

Appeal to Gorbachev

AMMAN, Feb. 7, (UPI). The PLO's parliament in exile yesterday asked Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to halt the immigration of Soviet Jews to the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and to press Washington for a halt in US aid to Israel.

"In the name of human rights, we appeal to you to take speedy measures to stop the immigration of Soviet Jews, which represents a Jewish raid on our land and homeland," the Palestine National Council said in a five-page memorandum sent to Gorbachev yesterday.

"We appeal to you to seriously implement international declarations and resolutions which require turning the pressure toward the United States to stop its military, financial and political support to Israel," the memorandum said.

The PNC, considered to be the legislative arm and governing body of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, was the latest in a series of Arab Organisations to express concern over increasing Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel.

An estimated 40,000 to 100,000 Soviet Jews are expected to immigrate to Israel during the next year. The influx of Soviet immigrants to Israel is the result of a loosening of emigration requirements by Moscow and a decision by Washington to restrict the number of Soviet Jews moving to the United States.

Statistics cited by Israel officials indicate only a small percentage of recent Soviet Jewish immigrants to Israel have decided to live in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

King Hussein, in an interview with the Kuwaiti daily, said Jordan, Syria and Lebanon faced "a real danger" from the influx of Soviet Jews to Israel and from right-wing Israelis pushing the idea that the territories should be incorporated into a so-called greater Israel.

"The danger is a real danger," said Hussein, whose remarks were carried in Jordanian dailies. "It requires more than summit meetings. We need to be frank and straightforward to discuss the matters deeply" before the convening of a Middle East peace conference.

The Jordanian ruler charged Israel is trying to implement a policy that considers Jordan to be Palestine. Some right-wing Israelis, responding to demands for a Palestinian state, point to Jordan's large Palestinian population and claim that Jordan is the Palestinian state.

Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar would not comment on the mass exodus of Soviet Jews to Israel and the spirit of Resolution 598 and basic documents, Perez de Cuellar said.

In the secretary-general's view, as expressed in his response, neither Iraq nor Iran should have any difficulty in agreeing to a direct meeting on the basis of an agenda that reflects the Resolution 598 and basic documents.

"I believe that the international community considers that the time is ripe for the two governments to proceed with major political decisions," he said. "The judgement of the two parties would, of course, have to be taken into account."

Following are the ideas the five submitted to the secretary-general:

- The five agree that the Council should give further concrete support to the ongoing peace efforts of the secretary-general, preferably through a statement by the president.
- The five express their strong support for the peace efforts of the secretary-general.
- The five share a common view as to the need to reinvigorate the dialogue between the two parties with a view to achieving a negotiated settlement based on the full implementation of Security Council Resolution 598.

Solarz said yesterday his house subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Affairs will hold hearings on the issue later this month, after learning the results of Secretary of State James Baker's talks with Kremlin leaders starting today in Moscow.

US policy in the past was based on predictions of an early collapse of the communist government in Afghanistan once the Soviets ended their decade-long occupation a year ago, said Solarz.

The Democrat said a compromise is needed because "there won't be a ceasefire without a political settlement or a military victory by one side or the other."

The rally for culture and democracy, which seeks greater recognition for the country's non-Arab berber culture, has called on opposition parties to work out among themselves a minimum common platform to submit to the government.

New UN plan for Iran-Iraq dialogue

UNITED NATIONS, Feb. 7, (KUNA). Concerned about the slow progress in the Gulf peace process, Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar is working on an agenda he hopes will be a basis for the next round of proposed direct talks.

He told the five permanent Security Council members during a meeting on Jan 31, he has come to the conclusion that the parties may accept an agenda, proposed by him with the Council's support and based on Resolution 598 and other basic documents.

The secretary-general's comments are contained in a written response of Jan 31 to a set of ideas submitted to him during a meeting two weeks earlier by the five permanent Council members — Britain, China, France, the Soviet Union and the United States.

In offering his response to the five permanent members, the secretary-general has scrapped his earlier proposal for an agenda that would have called on the two sides to make immediate progress on the most urgent issues — withdrawal of forces from each others' territories and the exchange of prisoners, with a firm agreement that the remainder of Resolution 598 would be implemented at a later date.

"It is questionable at this point whether a meeting without an agenda should be called at all," he told the five during the Jan 31 meeting.

Neither the secretary-general nor the Security Council would propose anything that is at variance with the letter and the spirit of Resolution 598 and basic documents, Perez de Cuellar said.

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US bid to end Afghan war

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7, (AP). Congressmen Stephen Solarz says US policy to end the war in Afghanistan has failed and the United States is searching for a formula to end the bloodshed and remove Afghanistan as a thorn in the side of US-Soviet relations.

Solarz said yesterday his house subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Affairs will hold hearings on the issue later this month, after learning the results of Secretary of State James Baker's talks with Kremlin leaders starting today in Moscow.

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The rally for culture and democracy, which seeks greater recognition for the country's non-Arab berber culture, has called on opposition parties to work out among themselves a minimum common platform to submit to the government.

The sources said emerging opposition parties feared they would be compromised if they threw their weight behind reforms drawn up entirely by the ruling National Liberation Front.

The Social Democratic Party said recently it did not reject the idea of a "national pact" between parties but it questioned whether the grounds for such a pact existed.

The rally for culture and democracy, which seeks greater recognition for the country's non-Arab berber culture, has called on opposition parties to work out among themselves a minimum common platform to submit to the government.

Israeli bus ambush was plotted abroad

Cairo detains 100 suspects

CAIRO, Feb. 7, (AP). A terrorist attack on a tour bus that left nine Israelis dead and 20 wounded was plotted abroad and carried out by foreigners, Egypt's Interior Minister said today.

Maj. Gen. Abdel Halim Moussa, responsible for internal security, said his investigators have found "a number of clues that I hope will lead us to the full dimensions of the incident" and to the ambushers.

But as the Egyptian police searched, one of Egypt's most lucrative tourist markets is drying up. Except for journalists, Israelis are staying away.

Sunday's attack by two gunmen, who used automatic weapons and hand grenades in a bus carrying 31 Israeli tourists 40 miles (64km) northeast of Cairo, already has caused many Israeli cancellations.

In Saudi Arabia yesterday, Foreign Minister Esmat Abdel Meguid said he hopes the incident will not deter Israelis from coming to Egypt.

Then, in today's statement distributed by the state-run Middle East News Agency, Interior Minister Moussa said: "It is certain... that the perpetrators of this crime are non-Egyptians, and that the plotting was done abroad and carried out on Egyptian soil."

He did not elaborate, but newspaper reports pointed to a Palestinian connection. Both the bus driver, who police sources said had worked with the bus company for less than a month, and the man who rented the attack car reportedly are Palestinian by birth.

Sources also said about 100 suspects were detained for questioning, mostly Palestinians. The sources, who demanded anonymity, said they included a Palestinian suspected of having driven the attack car.

In Cairo itself, life was normal, although security was stepped up at the main synagogue and airports remained in a state of alert.

Palestinian radicals based in Syria may have linked up with Egyptian-inspired fundamentalists to carry out Sunday's ambush of an Israeli tourist bus near Cairo, diplomats said today.

They said members of Islamic Jihad or other fundamentalist groups may have provided transport, arms and intelligence for the hit squad which killed nine Israelis and two Egyptians. The raid wounded 19 other people.

The diplomats said professional gunmen brought in from outside Egypt probably carried out the dusk raid on the Cairo-Ismailiya road, condemned by Washington, Israel, Egypt and the PLO as a blow against Middle East peace efforts.

The ambush would have taken at least three weeks and possibly as long as three months to organise, they told Reuters, saying one of the radical Palestinian groups based in Syria could have been involved.

The diplomats noted that a statement released by the group made by Riyadh-Jihad through the Damascus-based Al Quds radio, run by Ahmed Jibril's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

A leading Egyptian newspaper said today police were holding 60 people rounded up after the attack.

"All those arrested are effective clues on the way to catch the real culprits. Each of those arrested has given information of the attackers which would help lead to their arrest," the semi-official Al-Ahram newspaper quoted an official security source as saying.

The newspaper said investigators were comparing their fingerprints with those found on the Peugeot 505 which was used in the attack.

The report said the machine-guns and grenades used in the attack had been smuggled into the country through an Egyptian port.

Egypt's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Boutros Ghali yesterday expressed hope that the Israeli bus attack would not have negative impact on the peace process.

According to Radio Cairo, Ghali stressed that there is no Arab opposition to Egypt's peace efforts. "On the contrary," he said, "the Arab countries support Egypt efforts in this regard."

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PLO-Syria talk on reconciliation

Belgrade no to Israel ties

TUNIS, Feb. 7, (Agencies). Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Shara met in Tunis yesterday in the latest of a series of talks on a possible reconciliation between the PLO and Damascus.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) news agency Wafa said today "the importance of strengthening Arab solidarity was emphasised in the grave circumstances through which the Palestinian cause and the Arab nation are passing."

At previous meetings the PLO agreed in principle to send a delegation to Damascus but no date has been set for the visit.

The PLO says Syria must release Palestinian detainees, recognise the state of Palestine proclaimed in 1988 and undertake not to interfere in Palestinian affairs. Syrian objects to the PLO setting conditions for reconciliation.

In an interview published in the independent Tunis newspaper Al Sahab today, Palestinian leader Nayef Hawatmeb said: "A direct dialogue between a PLO delegation and the Syrians, with an open agenda, must now start."

The PLO is trying to arrange a meeting of the five front-line Arab states — Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine and Syria — as part of a diplomatic offensive to break the apparent deadlock in attempts to hold an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue in Cairo.

Ties: Yugoslav government affirmed last night that it does not intend to restore diplomatic relations with Israel, severed since the Israeli aggression on three Arab states in 1967.

The government's announcement was in response to the question made by Yugoslav parliamentarians to the federal government.

A number of Yugoslav deputies called on the government to review the severed diplomatic relations with Israel saying that an Arab country has already resumed diplomatic relations with Israel.

man to be given an early release, Boucher said. "Our approach to the problem of terrorism has always been the rule of law has to be applied to terrorists. That's the way we deal with the problem."

Le Figaro said Nacache's life sentence for killing two people during a 1980 assassination attempt against former Iranian Prime Minister Shapour Bakhtiar might be commuted to 20 years and that he could be freed as early as next year.

Asked if it would be desirable for the convicted

man to be given an early release, Boucher said. "Our approach to the problem of terrorism has always been the rule of law has to be applied to terrorists. That's the way we deal with the problem."

Le Figaro said Nacache's life sentence for killing two people during a 1980 assassination attempt against former Iranian Prime Minister Shapour Bakhtiar might be commuted to 20 years and that he could be freed as early as next year.

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Aliens refused work in Jordan

AMMAN, Feb. 7, (Reuters). Jordan, facing rising unemployment, said today it was refusing work permits to foreigners and sent labour inspectors to hunt down illegal guest workers.

The official news agency said the Labour Ministry would stop issuing permits from tomorrow and had ordered inspectors to pursue foreigners working illegally.

The crackdown could affect up to 255,000 foreigners estimated to be working without permits in the kingdom.

Labour Minister Qassem Obaidat said last month there were 300,000 foreigners working in Jordan, of whom only 45,000 had permits. His aim is to reduce the number of guest workers to 200,000 by the end of the year to combat unemployment.

About 180,000 Egyptians and 100,000 Syrians were illegally employed while 60,000 Jordanians were jobless, he said.

Prime Minister Mubarak Badran told Parliament last week 80,000 Jordanians were out of work and put the number of foreign workers at 175,000. There was no explanation for the discrepancies.

The campaign to regulate foreign workers follows last year's exodus of thousands of disgruntled Egyptians from Iraq which is trying to save scarce foreign currency and find jobs for soldiers demobilised after the Gulf war with Iraq.

Egypt, Jordan and Iraq are members, along with North Yemen, of the Arab Co-operation Council (ACC), a year-old economic group. ACC members have agreed to give their own nationals priority in jobs and then favour citizens of other ACC countries.

The report said the machine-guns and grenades used in the attack had been smuggled into the country through an Egyptian port.

Egypt's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Boutros Ghali yesterday expressed hope that the Israeli bus attack would not have negative impact on the peace process.

According to Radio Cairo, Ghali stressed that there is no Arab opposition to Egypt's peace efforts. "On the contrary," he said, "the Arab countries support Egypt efforts in this regard."

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Lebanese Red Cross workers carry a wounded man into the Barbir Hospital in West Beirut after they brought him from East Beirut where hospitals appealed for help after seven days of battles between rival Christian forces. (Reuters wirephoto)

20-year for radical sought

PARIS, Feb. 7, (Reuters). A prosecutor asked a French court yesterday to impose a 20-year jail term on the leader of a Muslim fundamentalist group suspected of masterminding a bombing campaign in Paris.

Prosecutor Jacques Fourvel called on the court to give Fouad Ali Saleh, a 33-year-old Frenchman of Tunisian origin, the maximum sentence for drugs smuggling.

Police found 6.5 kg (14 pounds) of heroin with explosives believed to belong to Saleh's group hidden in a forest cache shortly before his arrest in 1987.

Fourvel demanded the same sentence for Lebanese bomb expert Haider Habib, who is wanted under an international arrest warrant and is being tried in his absence.

Saleh, his wife and eight others are suspected of carrying out a bombing blitz on Paris shops, restaurants and railway stations in 1985-86 which killed 13 people and injured 250.

They say their views were not taken into enough account in the drawing up of a statute recently voted by the National Assembly, which sets salaries and working conditions.

Political parties contacted by Reuters on Wednesday said it was too soon to respond to Chadli's appeal. But a similar call by Prime Minister Mouloud Hamrouche last month drew cool relations.

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MIDEAST BRIEFS

Gang man hanged

DAMASCUS, Feb. 7, (AP). A member of an armed gang who was convicted of murder and robbery was hanged in the northern city of Hama, the Syrian daily newspaper Al-Bath reported today.

The newspaper, mouthpiece of the ruling Baath Party, said Mohammad Mahmoud Kaddour, 30, was member of a gang in the Syrian Tulkalakh area near the border with Lebanon.

It said Kaddour robbed three people in October and fled toward the Lebanese side of the border with his partner, Khalid Al Samra.

Peace talks

ADDIS ABABA, Feb. 7, (Reuters). The rival factions in a small rebel group fighting for independence in the Red Sea province of Eritrea have united for preliminary peace talks with the Ethiopian government, deputy Prime Minister Ashaghe Yigrem was quoted as saying today.

Rebels destroyed

ADDIS ABABA, Feb. 7, (AP). Ethiopia said today its army had destroyed a large rebel force in southern Gondar province and was slowly pushing back insurgents in neighbouring Wollo province.

The official news agency said army units had reached the outskirts of the strategic city of Weldiya in northern Wollo province, making what it called "slow but steady" progress against apparently stiff opposition.

Fighter equipment

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7, (Reuters). The United States plans to sell Turkey \$205 million in sophisticated targeting and navigation equipment for use in F-16 fighter jets, the Pentagon said yesterday.

The plan, sent to Congress by President George Bush, is expected to become final in 30 days without opposition from lawmakers.

Egyptian envoy

CAIRO, Feb. 7, (Reuters). An Egyptian envoy will visit Moscow on Sunday to prepare a meeting next month between President Hosni Mubarak and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, the semi-official Al-Ahram newspaper said.

In an early edition, it quoted diplomats as saying the meeting was expected to take place in Moscow in the second half of March.

Unity summit

ABU DHABI, Feb. 7, (Reuters). North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh will soon visit Aden for a summit on the planned merger of South and North Yemen, a United Arab Emirates (UAE) newspaper said today.

Al-Itihad newspaper, in a report from Sanaa, said Saleh would meet South Yemen's ruling Socialist Party leader Ali Salem Al-Bidh to discuss "moves taken so far to unify the two countries."

The planned summit will be the second since November 30, when the two leaders decided to merge their countries within a year.

Repatriation

KHARTOUM, Feb. 7, (AP). An unspecified number of soldiers who had fled to Zaire during a rebel attack in southern Sudan last month were returned to their base, the state-run Sudan news agency said yesterday.

Suna did not indicate when the troops were repatriated nor how many they were, but rebel sources have said about 3,000 Sudanese army soldiers had fled to Zaire during a battle near Kajo-Kaji last month.

Japanese team

TOKYO, Feb. 7, (Kuna). Japanese Foreign Ministry will dispatch a delegation to four Middle Eastern countries between February 9-25 to gather information on international efforts to establish peace in the region, it was officially announced here today.

The commission which will be headed by Japanese former ambassador to the United Nations Kiwaki Kikuchi, will tour Syria, Jordan, Israel and Cyprus.

Con caviar

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Feb. 7, (Reuters). Israeli researchers announced yesterday they had turned fish oil, stabilisers and preservatives into a gourmet treat almost indistinguishable from caviar.

Delitech, a subsidiary of the Technion Research and Development Foundation, said a special machine made the kosher caviar look like fish roe.

"The new caviar is made from natural products with no artificial colours and contains protein, fish oil, vegetable oil, stabilisers, salt and preservatives," the Haifa-based company said in a statement.

It said extensive testing in Israel and abroad had shown its black caviar was close to the taste of the expensive original.

The company said its product would sell for \$8 for 100 grammes, compared with hundreds of dollars for a similar amount of caviar.

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Bring back students call

NICOSIA, Feb. 7, (AP). An Iranian student group has called on the government to bring home all its students from Britain after London deported nine Iranians as security risks, the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported today.

IRNA, monitored in Nicosia, said that a group called the Committee to Support Muslim Students Oppressed by Britain called for a complete break in cultural and economic ties with Britain.

"The British government should know that it is most hated by the Muslims and a gloomy

future is awaiting it," IRNA quoted the group's statement as saying.

The agency said more than 2,000 Iranians study in Britain. IRNA said the student committee presented the statement to the Majlis, or parliament, and other senior officials.

The agency said student representatives met with Mostafa Moazzadeh, head of the Majlis committee on industries and mines, who said Britain's attitude would affect its participation in the \$14 billion industrial projects included in the newly approved 5-year plan.

Chadli using carrot and stick to tame unruly democracy

ALGIERS, Feb. 7, (Reuters). President Chadli Benjedid is using carrot and stick to tame Algeria's unruly new democracy and win time to implement desperately needed economic reforms.

Faced with a sinking economy, violence by Muslim extremists and a wave of labour unrest, Chadli on Tuesday urged new opposition parties to rally around what he called basic principles of the Algerian state.

Political sources said he was seeking a period of social peace needed to complete a flagging economic reform drive he launched in the mid-1980s, widely deemed essential to overcome an economic crisis.

"The government needs the understanding and help of all," he told a conference of public sector managers. "We need responsible discussion between all parties on a kind of (common) platform."

Chadli vowed to strike hard against any new act of violence such as an attack on Jan 16 by Muslim extremists on a courtroom outside of Algiers.

But he also held out a carrot — open dialogue with all 20 of the country's new political parties, and renewed guarantees that forthcoming multi-party elections, unprecedented since independence in 1962, will be free and fair.</

Reza Ali Khan: hidden in the shadows

By Fathima Ahmed
Arab Times staff

INDIAN classical singer Reza Ali Khan's reputation precedes him, or rather the reputation of his grandfather, Ustad Bade Ghulam Ali Khan.

Reza, who came on a private visit to Kuwait earlier this month, has created a stir among music enthusiasts with his rendition of both classical

and light musical numbers at "mehfils" (private gatherings). But it is the shadow of his illustrious grandfather that engulfs him, and unfortunately, people recognise him more for his family heritage than for his own achievements.

Judging from his performance at mehfil, he seems to be an accomplished singer in his own right, and despite the unfair comparisons, he is as good if not

better than Bade Ghulam Ali Khan.

"I've stopped telling people not to compare me with my grandfather, gradually, I've learnt to live in the shadow of both Bade Ghulam Ali and my father," he says.

Reza belongs to the well-known Patiala Gharana (a family of professional musicians), exponents of the Hindustani style of music which developed during the time of the Mughals on the matrix of rich Indian heritage interacting with Persian-Arabic influences, intermingling ideas and techniques. The Patiala Gharana is a mixture of four big gharanas, Delhi, Jaipuri, Dagar and Muradabadi. The later part of the 19th century saw the revival of the Hindustani style, and despite diminishing princely patronage, prominent musicians revived the art and science of Hindustani music. Among the revivalists were Pandit Vishnu Digambar followed by virtuoso stalwarts like Ustad Fateh Ali Khan, Ali Baksh Jannail and Bade Ghulam Ali Khan.

Reza, in his own way, is carrying on the mantle thrust on him by birth and his own quest for musical excellence. Music flows in his blood; rhythm and melody come as naturally to him as fish takes to water. Although he was introduced to music at the age of 5, it was not until he was 14 that he took it up as a serious vocation. He has not looked back since, first experimenting with

jazz and trying out light classical music and settling for classical music.

In the late 1970s, he formed a jazz band, experimenting with musical forms Indian and Western. Although it was an invigorating experience, it did not last long and he returned to his roots, studying the twelve-tone complex of Hindustani music. The 12-tones, he says, is the substance out of which scales and tunes give rise to variations. He believes in improvising but not at the cost of musical norms. During his love-affair with jazz he improvised, often blending jazz and Hindustani music to create off-beat melodies. Supported by a deep, resonant controlled voice, he is already on the way to becoming a "good performer" he craves to be as he treks uphill in the competitive world of music.

It's not the competition he is worried about. It's the lack of music culture that bothers him as he paints a gloomy picture of the classical music scene in India. "It's a bad time for Indian classical music," he says. Despite concerted efforts to train musicians? "Yes," he says.

Reza says that people are training in the theory and history of music while neglecting its practical applications. "So, we have many historians and theoreticians but not many performers," he says. "People who don't know the a-b-c of music are running the

places; they do what others tell them to do," he claims. And, as an example, he cites the Sangeet Research Academy, which he says has not turned out "even one musician of repute".

He also decries the bureaucratic hassles, favouritism and politicisation of music centres in India. "They are wasting time," he says.

Reza is not. He is using every moment of his life to make every mehfil the "best performance" of his life. And prepares to take fame in his stride.

For Reza, "music is an emotional experience, a means to make listeners laugh or cry, depending on the sound of music." Although articulate, the only time he has difficulty expressing himself is when you ask him what music means to him.

"It's yet to be a spiritual experience, I can't express my feelings about music in words," he says. But when the lights dim and he caresses his harmonium, and his accompanist Saleem plays the tabla, the rhythm and melody flow in unison. It seems inconsequential what he is singing — a khayal, a thumri, raga darbari or a Ghalib ghazal. Appreciation is spontaneous.

For Reza, the mehfil, perhaps, are the launch pad for the fame to come. For listeners, his rendition is an experience to cherish. And one day, he might just emerge from his grandfather's shadow and shine on his own.

Ustad Walton Dass Nite

THE Ustad Walton Dass Nite, organised by the Sur Sangeet Group will be held on Feb 9, Friday, at the Ramada Al Salem Hotel, at 6.30 pm.

The evening features Walton Dass, a well-known sitar exponent, who has regaled audiences in Kuwait during his six years stay here. The evening will also feature classical dances, popular Hindi film music, ghazals, Punjabi songs and qawalli.

Walton Dass comes from Bangalore, India. He obtained instrumental training from Ustad Abdul Baqi Saheb from the age of nine and learnt to play the sitar, tabla, harmonium and other instruments. In 1949, he became a radio artist in India and also played in the court of the Maharajah of Jamnaga. In the 1950s, he took part in government sponsored cultural shows abroad and travelled to several countries. Later, he dabbled in light music and joined the Filmistan Studio's orchestra.

His son, Edwin, has inherited his father's talent and has appeared in several shows in Kuwait, both on stage and on the television.

In addition to Walton and Edwin Dass, other performers include Charles Dass, Karim, Paul Martin, Robert Simpson, Rocky, Kidikar Raju, Lakshmi Raju, Valencia Daniel, Rose Bud and Mrs Karim.



Ustad Munir Khan



Valencia Daniel



Lakshmi Raju



WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Craft Centre
MOTHERS are your hands too full with your tots on weekends? Here's a chance for you to relax and introduce them to creative art. For details contact 5635740, between 9-12 noon.

Seminar
THE seminar at the DAA, on Arabic and European Art in The Light of Zodiacal Symbolism has been postponed. It will be given during the period Feb 11 - March 11, 1990. Morning sessions on Sunday and Tuesday 11.00 - 12.30 am or evening session on Sunday and Tuesday 6.00 - 7.30 pm. Registration may be made by phoning the Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyyah, Tel: 2430826, 2432529.

SOCIAL

Konkani drama
THE New Goans Overseas Association is pleased to announce Menino De Baudar's "Sousarant Astana Diar" a Konkani play which will be held in the Indian Arts Circle (Funaites) on 16th February 1990. The cast all from Goa includes M. Boyer, Felcy, Josephine, Betty Alvares, Tita, Junior Rod, Carlos, Rosario Dias, C. D'Silva, John de Parra and Menino de Baudar. Tickets now available at Canary Video (Sharq) and Video Clock (near G.P.O.). Rush for tickets, one show only.

Sur Sangeet
SUR Sangeet presents Sitar Nawaz Ustad Walton Dass nite, at Al Ramada Al Salam (Marriott) Hotel at 6.30 pm on February 9. For more information tel. 5615291.

Punjabi Cultural Society
PUNJABI Cultural Society in Kuwait is celebrating the 117th birth anniversary of great Punjabi poet Padam Bhushan Bhai Vir Singh on Feb 9, 1990 at 6.30 pm; at the Indian Embassy Auditorium. The noted Punjabi writers, poets and singers will participate. Everybody is welcome.

ACT's production of Thornton Wilder's comedy "The Skin of Our Teeth" will be presented on February 27, 28 and March 1 at 8.00 pm at the Universal American School, Salwa. Tickets can be reserved by calling 5725071 or 5731782.

Carnival Fiesta '90
YMCA/Incredible S.C. are proud to announce their Carnival Fiesta '90 at Messilah Beach Hotel (Habiba) on Feb 22, '90.

Non-stop dancing from 8.30 pm onwards to the beat of latest sensation "Hurricane Alley" and "Neighbourhood".

Highlights: Best Carnival couple (fancy) and many many surprises. For details contact the organisers on Tel. 2450279 (between 8 am to 1 pm) or Tel. 3921712.

Daniella Fastelabn
Daniella celebrates "Fastelabn" for Dances at Gazelle Club on Friday, Feb 16, at 1 pm. For reservations please call Marianne — Tel: 3710215 ext 29 or Winnie — Tel: 5733382 before Feb 13.

SEVENTH Sky's Rock Concert at Al Andalus Cinema on 15th & 16th Feb '90. Featuring Rock, Pop/Rock and Rock 'n' Roll from the 80's. For information and reservation call 5730265/2543219.

Kuwait Welsh Society
ST. DAVID'S Day buffet dance, Thursday 1st March 1990, Al Messilah Beach Hotel. For ticket reservations & more information, ring 3713467, 3912384, 5625316.

Hobby centre
A NEW 8 week course in Jewellery and Design making — For more details call — Telephone: 5618847 or 5317354.

Kalpak's Drama Competition
KERALA Arts and Literature Promotion Association of Kuwait (Kalpak) is conducting a Malayalam One Act Play Competition at Indian Arts Circle on 9th February 1990.

SAS Kuwait Hotel will feature Singapore festival on 20th and 21st February at The Tent. The oriental extravaganza will present Lion dancers, Chinese dancers, finger painter plus elaborate buffet of popular Singaporean recipes prepared by Singaporean chefs. First of its kind in Kuwait, the show was put up in co-ordination with Singapore tourist promotion board and Singapore Airlines and aims to foster closer relations between the two countries. Tickets available at SAS hotel front office, tel. no. 5657000.

One Act Play Rehearsals
Kuwait Players are holding auditions for a selection of one act plays to be staged in April. If you're interested in directing, acting or assisting backstage, do come along to the auditions at 7.30pm on Monday Feb 12th or Tuesday Feb 13th. Please phone 5615357 for details of venue.

Drama Competition

A drama competition by Kalpak will be held on Feb 9 in the Indian Arts Circle starting at 4 pm. Four renowned Malayali theatres are participating in this event. Varghese Gee, the Indian embassy's first secretary will inaugurate the function. The following awards will be presented: Best drama, best script (for only Kuwait creation), best director, best actress, best child actress, best child artist, best stage setting. Entrance is restricted by passes which will be available at the Indian Arts Circle. All are invited to attend this function to make it a grand success. For more details contact 5626620 or 4316737.

British Council

THE ITALIAN JOB: Saturday, 10 and Sunday, 11 February 6.30 pm, 130 min.

The title is Italian but the case is most definitely British. Michael Caine and Noel Coward star in this fast, entertaining comedy caper. With wild chases galore, the job culminates with the robbers in their mini cars using the piazza, arcades and roof tops to make their getaway causing the world's biggest traffic jam.

STUDYING, COMPUTING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE IN BRITAIN

Whether you want a short course, a 2-year diploma, a BSc, or a PhD — we have the information you need. Come and visit the Education Office on Monday, 12 February or Tuesday, 13 February and access our computerised database! Our staff will be there to assist you and help find a course to suit you.

SPORTS

Seven a side tourney
ACO Overseas is pleased to announce their first one day tournament which will be held on the 2nd of March 1990, at the Al Sour Grounds. For further information contact: Camiro D'Souza or Albert Leitao.

Apollo Fitness Centre at Holiday Inn Kuwait

Julie Dent wants you ... to check out the new look at Holiday Inn and make 1990 the year for a happier, healthier you. Squash and tennis courts with professional coaches available. Separate gym facilities for men and women including steam, sauna and jacuzzi. Burn off those extra pounds in Julie's exercise classes or swim your way to fitness in our heated pools. Why not try out our 4-lanes bowling alley or simply relax in the lounge with friends. You have tried the rest, now sample the best. Call in now for further details on membership, activities and events ... There is something for everyone. So, whatever your sport, call now on 4742000 ext. 6700 or ext. 6788 for the recreation manager.

7th Ida Memorial Tournament draw

The draw of the Seventh Ida Memorial Football Tournament will be held at Caravan Restaurant on 9th February at 10.30 am. The tournament will commence on 16th February onwards.

Two representatives of all KIFF's affiliated clubs are cordially invited to attend the draw. Entries can be submitted to any of our GCA repres-

tative or can contact Celestino Vaz on 4818259/4831064 or Edwin Pereira 2457230/31.

7th annual football
Youth Recreation Centre Seventh Annual Football Tournament Friday fixtures: — At Sour ground 'B': 7.00 am Goa Maroons v/s Expatriates Club, 8.30 am Sal-cette Utd v/s New Goa.

CINEMA

Al Andalus
Batman
Salmiya
Hall booked
Al Hama
Ninja Destroyer
Drive-in
Arabic film
Al Firdous
Bhai Ka Dushman Bhai
Fahad
Hoshiyar
Al Jahra
Arabic film
Granada
Arabic film
Sulaibikhat
Araro Arirao
Jeeb
Mera Farz
Ahmadi Drive-In
Arabic film
FRIDAY
Al Andalus
Batman
Salmiya
Hall booked
Al Hama
The Ultimate Ninja
Drive-in
Arabic film
Al Firdous
Bhai Ka Dushman Bhai
Fahad
Hoshiyar
Al Jahra
Shock Troop
Granada
Arabic film
Sulaibikhat
Street Justice
Jeeb
Ghar Mein Ram Gali Mein
Shyam
Ahmadi Drive-In
Arabic film

NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait
Al Ameen Pharmacy
Jaber Al Mubarak Street
Ebin Seena Pharmacy
Mubarak Al Kaber Street
Hawaili and Nagra
Al Firdous Pharmacy
Beirut St
Salmiya and Kuzalithiya
Razzan Pharmacy
Al Razi Street
Fahad and Ahmadi
Ahmadi
Jeeb Esyouth
Al Namran Pharmacy
Opp. to Jeeb Esyouth
School
Jahra
Al Zahra Pharmacy
The New Souq
tive Society

PRAYERS

Fajr 5.12 am
Zohr 12.02 pm
Asr 3.09 pm
Maghrib 5.31 pm
Isha 6.50 pm
FRIDAY
Fajr 5.12 am
Zohr 12.02 pm
Asr 3.10 pm
Maghrib 5.32 pm
Isha 6.51 pm

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1
9.00 Opening and Holy Quran
9.15 Cartoon serial (final part)
9.45 Sabah Al Kher programmes
10.00 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)
10.15 Sabah Al Kher programmes
10.30 Sabah Al Kher programmes
10.45 Sabah Al Kher programmes
11.00 Sabah Al Kher programmes
11.15 Live from the Grand Mosque for the Friday Prayers and speeches
12.25 Alwan: Variety programme, prepared by Mohammed Al Fares and presented by Fatema Abdul Wahab.
1.00 News Summary
1.05 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)
1.20 Al Hadeeth Al Deeni: Religious programme, presented by Sheikh Mohammed Metwalli Al Sharawi.
2.00 The Friday Break: Local variety programme, prepared by Osem Abdul Qader and presented by Dawlat Shawqi.
3.45 Al Hob We Seneo: Arabic serial (part 4), starring Hussain Fahmi, Ismail Younis.
4.45 Sabah Al Fadh: cartoon serial
5.30 Cartoons
5.45 Night chemists, airlines and official advertisements
6.00 Waqal Hakem: Historical serial (part 1), starring Radwan Aqel, Ali Abdul Aziz, Iman Kamel and Anwar Khaleel
6.45 Egypt information message to the State of Kuwait
7.00 Maa Al Talaba: local programme, prepared by the Ministry of Education, School Activity Department, presented by Ali Hasan
8.00 Popular varieties
8.30 Maa Al Islam: Religious programme, prepared and presented by Dr Khaled Al Mazkoor
9.00 News in Arabic
9.45 Lil Adala Waah Akhar: Arabic serial (part 1), starring Afaf Suaid, Omar Al Hareri, Safa Al Sabe and Mohammed
10.45 Al Ab Al Thaar: Arabic feature film, starring Ezzat Al Alayli, Samah Anwar, Raja Al Jeddawi and Ibrahim Al Shami
12.20 Thursday variety late night feature
1.30 News summary
1.35 The World Today via Satellite
1.35 Holy Quran and closedown

FRIDAY

9.00 The Opening and Holy Quran
9.15 Cartoons
9.45 Cartoon Serial
10.15 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)
10.30 The Children's Magazine: Local children's programme, prepared by Ameena Khairi.
11.00 Al Hadeeth Al Mawdeeni: Religious programme, presented by Sheikh Mohammed Metwalli Al Sharawi.
11.15 Live from the Grand Mosque for the Friday Prayers and speeches
12.25 Alwan: Variety programme, prepared by Mohammed Al Fares and presented by Fatema Abdul Wahab.
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10.15 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)
10.30 The Children's Magazine: Local children's programme, prepared by Ameena Khairi.
11.00 Al Hadeeth Al Mawdeeni: Religious programme, presented by Sheikh Mohammed Metwalli Al Sharawi.
11.15 Live from the Grand Mosque for the Friday Prayers and speeches
12.25 Alwan: Variety programme, prepared by Mohammed Al Fares and presented by Fatema Abdul Wahab.
1.00 News Summary
1.05 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)
1.20 Al Hadeeth Al Deeni: Religious programme, presented by Sheikh Mohammed Metwalli Al Sharawi.
2.00 The Friday Break: Local variety programme, prepared by Osem Abdul Qader and presented by Dawlat Shawqi.
3.45 Al Hob We Seneo: Arabic serial (part 4), starring Hussain Fahmi, Ismail Younis.
4.45 Sabah Al Fadh: cartoon serial
5.30 Cartoons
5.45 Night chemists, airlines and official advertisements
6.00 Waqal Hakem: Historical serial (part 1), starring Radwan Aqel, Ali Abdul Aziz, Iman Kamel and Anwar Khaleel
6.45 Egypt information message to the State of Kuwait
7.00 Maa Al Talaba: local programme, prepared by the Ministry of Education, School Activity Department, presented by Ali Hasan
8.00 Popular varieties
8.30 Maa Al Islam: Religious programme, prepared and presented by Dr Khaled Al Mazkoor
9.00 News in Arabic
9.45 Lil Adala Waah Akhar: Arabic serial (part 1), starring Afaf Suaid, Omar Al Hareri, Safa Al Sabe and Mohammed
10.45 Al Ab Al Thaar: Arabic feature film, starring Ezzat Al Alayli, Samah Anwar, Raja Al Jeddawi and Ibrahim Al Shami
12.20 Thursday variety late night feature
1.30 News summary
1.35 The World Today via Satellite
1.35 Holy Quran and closedown

FRIDAY

7.00 Wild America: beautiful "Bling" to the colour blue and its relation with plants and animal life in America.
7.30 My Secret Identity: "Two Faces Have I". Jef becomes a schizophrenic and dates a woman whom he hates... Will Andrew succeed in putting an end to this love affair?
8.00 News in brief
8.30 The World Today via Satellite
9.30 The Bill Cosby Show: "It comes and it goes"
10.00 More Real People: Hockey under water... Belly dancer and men... Music and its relation with happiness
10.30 Feature Film: "Last Days of Frank & Jesse James". Starring David Alan Coe, James Caan, Young Cash. The story of Jesse and Frank and circumstances that set them on the road of crime. Jesse's love life and marriage.
12.00 News in brief
12.15 Magazine D'Actualite
FRIDAY
6.00 Opening announcement and Holy Quran
6.10 Cartoons
6.30 Walt Disney Movie: "14 Going On 30". A school boy has the chance to foil a marriage arrangement between his teacher whom he hates and another woman by returning back in time...
8.00 News in English
8.30 Breaking Away: Recreational and entertainment activities carried out in various parts in Kuwait...
8.45 Rescue 911: The team carries out a certain number of rescue operations.
9.30 The Weekend Programme: A weekly local programme on variety of topics and local activities and events...
10.00 Rosanne: "To we're not in Kansas Anyore." The radio forecasts that a hurricane will strike the area and gives certain instructions and warnings to the people where Rosie comments on such news in humorous way...
10.30 The Mystery Wheel: "Murder, Smoke Shadow". A famous director kills his childhood friend who threatened to revealing an old secret which may destroy his future. His corpse is mutilated and thrown in a deserted beach... Colombo investigates.
11.30 News in brief
11.45 Magazine D'Actualite



Holiday Inn - Kuwait receives Superior Hotel Award

The Holiday Inn - Kuwait is one of approximately 300 hotels selected to receive Holiday Inns' Superior Hotel Award for 1989.

The Superior Hotel Award is presented only to those Holiday Inn hotels that are considered among the best in the system in both service and product quality. Of the approximately 1,600 hotels in the chain's world wide system, an average of 12 per cent are recognized as Superior Hotels.

Hotels receiving the award are nominated by their district directors, and must have been open and operating for at least one year. For consideration for the award, a hotel must receive perfect scores on two consecutive quality assurance evaluations and the latest guest service evaluation. In addition, the hotel must receive top guest inspection scores and a low number of written complaints.

During a special ceremony on 12/1/90 Abdennadher, the general manager presented Superior Hotel pins to each employee and thanked them for their dedication in helping their hotel win the Superior Hotel recognition.

In addition to the employee pins, the hotel received a special trophy. The award also puts the hotel in the running for the company's annual Top 20 Award.

Winners of the company's Top 20 Award will be announced at the Holiday Inn System Conference in San Francisco in September. The winning general managers will receive a seven-day Caribbean cruise.

JAWHARA LITA

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Expat finance

Finding the right place

By Tony Mustafa
Overseas Financial Services

IN my last article, I outlined the idea of a ten year unit linked Life Assurance Plan and I would now like to dwell on that subject a little longer since it is one of the most useful and important tools available to anyone shaping an overall financial plan. Not only is it efficient as a medium-term investment but in most cases can be used as the most efficient long-term pension planning vehicle also — not necessarily on its own, since there is no panacea for all ills, but as a component part of an overall structure.

Last week I described how, instead of issuing one big "policy" for £1,500 per month, the arrangement, by means of a simple entry into the company, issues one hundred policies at £15 per month each.

However, an arrangement of this type must, in most cases, be capable of running ten years and you only have a five year contract or expectancy of contract offshore. What to do? Well, the insurance company will take your £1,500 per month and invest the lot £900 into the ten year plan and six hundred in a bond of some sort, varying from company to company. In year six that bond will have grown to £900 and they will have a "power of attorney" enabling them to cash the bond and pay off £900 due for the ten-year-plan's input. Likewise, the excess from year two will fund year seven, year three funds year eight etc. to completion. You have now contributed, as far as the ten year plan is aware, 10 years x 12 months x £900 = a total of £108,000 (the actual input was of course 5 x 12 x £150 = £90,000).

If the actual growth rate, with all expenses and charges deducted, is 15 per cent, you will have a fund of £225,344 at the ten year point. If the growth rate is 12 per cent that fund will be £212,274.

If you need, say, £120,000 at that stage you merely encash the relevant number of policies, leaving the remainder to grow tax-free offshore — unless you happen to be British, of course, in which case special rules apply, and these can largely be got around by the use of an offshore trust.

Provided, therefore, that you strip out the fund at a rate below that at which it is growing, you have a source of income available to you which, as it is treated as a "return of capital" is neither taxed nor added to your other income(s) for tax purposes.

In this way, the ten-year-plan can prove as much better retirement — income vehicle than the more conventional pension plans, the disadvantage being its much more rigid input structure. I don't think you can really compare the one to the other as

they are "different animals" but, rather than it being a case of either/or, you will probably find use and room for both! As I've mentioned before a keynote of good planning is flexibility and we should cater for the unforeseen unless we happen to be gifted with the "second-sight".

Another keynote is, of course, security, who are the companies offering to manage the expatriate's cash over this ten year plus period? There are a whole host of them, nearly all offshoots of internationally known names such as Eagle Star, Providence Capital International, Royal Insurance, Royal Standard (Royal Trust Bank of Canada & Skandia Assurance), Savar and Prosper (Robert Fleming Group), Sun Alliance, Target, Tyndall, Actus and many others.

I think it is best to stay with these big names (for your peace of mind at least) but there are other safeguards as well. The failure of the Gibraltar based Signal Life, British based Naulon Life fifteen years ago and the recent well publicised problems experienced by both London Life and the United Kingdom Provident Insurance plan for the world-investor to pose the security question.

It is comforting to be able to relate, therefore, that nearly all the offshore companies are a very safe bet since, apart altogether from their parents' financial muscle, they are also subject to some pretty strict scrutiny by the governments in whose jurisdiction they are based.

The main bases for these international offshoots are the Channel Islands — Jersey and Guernsey, the Isle of Man and, in continental Europe, Luxembourg. In Britain the Financial Services Act and the Policyholders Protection Act have been in force now for over a year and the "tax havens" mentioned are all very anxious to achieve "designated territory status" under that Financial Services Act; therefore they have put into practice policyholders of companies based in their territories.

The Isle of Man, for instance, has a voluntary scheme in operation, due to become statutory later this year which mirrors the UK Policyholders Protection Act. This scheme provides for a return of 90 per cent of the policyholders' money in the event of one of their insurance companies becoming insolvent. This is paid for by a levy on the other companies operating from island. (This "umbrella" only covers those who have taken out policies since the inception of the scheme in April 1988).

Guernsey, however, has opted for a different set of rules. In this case the Guernsey Government requires insurance companies operating from there to keep 70 per cent of the assets

underlying their funds with an independent custodian trustee and that custodian trustee has to be both approved and supervised by the Superintendent of Insurance Business.

Luxembourg, however, has gone the whole hog and requires insurers based there to keep one hundred per cent of the relevant assets in the custody of a bank which is approved by the ministry of finance. Also, if the company were to get into trouble and the forced to wind up, those assets can only be disposed of and distributed to the policyholders to whom they belong — general creditors have no claim on them whatsoever.

The Offshore Finance industry has now grown to such a size and is of such importance to these offshore tax-havens that all the authorities concerned are determined to ensure that, as far as they can, no breath of scandal will ever attach to an insurer based in their territories.

Also, the parent companies keep a close watching brief on their offshoots and the trend nowadays is for the smaller companies to be acquired by the giants of the business as happened recently in the case of Unilife of Luxembourg which was taken over by the Target Life Assurance Company which in turn is owned by the Swiss Savings Bank and that, grouping also includes Hill Samuel, the International Merchant Bank. In this business big equates to safe.

But what of the person, who, for one reason or another, wants to buy Unit Trusts without a link to Life Assurance? Capital, one-off purchases, are no problem and, although not available in the case of every group, there are a whole host of companies offering monthly or annual unit purchase schemes.

However, the choice of the particular unit is now back in your hands which brings us, full circle, back to the question of risk selected. I have dealt with this subject before (in a previous article) but, for those people who want the excitement of high risk and its possible consequent gains, let me briefly take a look at a few of the more controlled funds available.

Firstly, especially Commodity funds, are a very popular investment medium with Expatriates who, time after time, trot out the line given them by some salesman, that since there is a "money back" guarantee in seven years time they cannot lose. In fact what happens is that 60 per cent of initial investment is put into a US Treasury Stock and the interest thereon, at seven and a half per cent, is compounded over the seven years thus paying back all the Capital; meanwhile, the commodity future dealer gets busy with the remaining cash and trades on the Commodity

exchanges for, he hopes, a profit.

Over the last six or seven years the biggest of these funds has shown an average profit of 30 per cent per year but it must be stressed that this is in a period of rising commodity prices — we have still to see them perform in a defensive role for an extended period of time.

And let's have a look at that "you cannot lose" aspect. If, instead of giving your hundred shekels or whatever to the Commodity man you, instead, put it in a safe Bank Account at 10 per cent interest, then that hundred will have grown to a sum of one hundred and ninety five shekels (or Riyals or Rupees) in seven years time, although its buying power is probably the same as on day one. You have, therefore, suffered a 47-1/2 per cent loss!

Another popular investment medium is that of Warrant Funds. A warrant is merely a guarantee that you may buy a share at a time in the future at a fixed price. In other words, it is a Share Option. These warrants were issued in large numbers in Japan over the last few years and have become so popular that the warrants have been detached from their accompanying original Shares and now form a market in their own right. Because of their very nature they tend to react in a geared fashion to underlying market trends — on a rising market they will be geared at a factor of about three and a half to one whereas on a falling market the gearing factor will be three — reflecting the management's expertise in defence.

The best way to use these funds, in my humble opinion, is to wait for a sharp drop in the market (caused, perhaps, by a bout of profit-taking) and then buy in. Buying warrants towards the upper end of a Bull market can have disastrous consequences.

A rather more specialised gamble could be effected by taking a view on the British Gilt market and, in particular, that old chestnut, the War Loan Stocks. These are priced at less than half their redemption price and yield about seven and a half per cent as a running yield.

However, because of the Budget surplus of recent years, the UK Government seems set on paying off its indebtedness and so the Gilt market is rapidly shrinking.

These Gilt Stocks are important to the institutions and, as availability dries up, the prices of War Loan can be expected to rise dramatically with the time to maturity. The investor being War Loan redemption by the Government at face value; meanwhile, the consolation prize of a running yield is available to all.

Next week ... some heavyweight speculation in the form of Mortgage!

Syria proposes budget to boost efficiency in agriculture

First trade surplus for 30 years

DAMASCUS, Feb. 7. (Reuters): Syria today announced its first trade surplus for 30 years, fuelled by rising oil exports and a healthier private sector, and proposed a budget to boost efficiency in agriculture and industry.

Exports more than doubled to \$3.74 billion (\$3.01 billion) in 1989 from 15.09 billion (\$1.34 billion) the year before, economy and Trade Minister Mohammed Imadi was quoted by the official Sana news agency as saying.

Finance Minister Khaled Mahayni on Monday presented parliament with a draft 1990 budget of \$61.875 billion (\$5.52 billion), up from \$7 billion (\$5.08 billion) in 1989.

Mahayni said 87.6 per cent of budget revenues in 1990 would come from domestic sources, higher than last year and up from no more than 60 per cent between 1980 and 1985.

In past years other Arab states including Saudi Arabia have given Syria substantial aid.

Imadi said oil exports in 1989 totalled \$9.14 billion (\$8.15 billion). New fields coming on stream boosted output to about 400,000 barrels a day, against 250,000 in 1988.

Private sector exports of such items as food, textiles, leather goods and livestock also surged to nearly half the total, encouraged by the government.

An austerity drive helped imports fall to \$23.31 billion (\$2.08 billion) from 34.95 billion (\$2.22 billion) in 1988.

The 1989 trade surplus was \$10.44 billion (\$932 million), against a 1988 deficit of \$9.86 billion (\$880 million).

The surplus was believed to be the country's first for 30 years, economists said.

But they added that a drought which has hit some farm output and the damming of the Euphrates River by Turkey partly offset the rosy economic picture.

Ankara is cutting the flow into Syria of the Euphrates, a major source of power and irrigation, for one month from January 13 to fill the Ataturk Dam in southeast Turkey.

Mahayni said big irrigation, agricultural and industrial projects would receive funds to boost their efficiency.

As in 1989, budget revenues in 1990 were expected to exactly equal spending.

Seminar on oil and gas strategies in the '90s

Stable oil market 'vital'

HOUSTON, Feb. 7. (Reuters): Opec Secretary-General Dr Subroto called today for a stable oil market, which he emphasised, was essential for the orderly growth of the world's economy which could only be achieved through co-operation among all parties involved in the oil industry.

Addressing a seminar on "oil and gas strategies in the 1990s" organised by the Cambridge Energy Research Associates, Subroto, speaking on "Opec in the new era" conceded that Opec's efforts to bring about wide-scale co-operation in the 1980s had only met "partial success".

While what was achieved was welcome, he added, it fell short of the comprehensive level of co-operation and united action now required of all participants in the market to avert another oil crisis.

He said world demand for oil was projected to rise and non-Opec production was on the wane which would result in growing reliance on Opec. He warned that the next "shock" would come when it was found that Opec no longer had the production capacity to meet the rising level of demand.

He said according to each of the

three principal price and output scenarios that the organisation had examined, there was a problem of meeting the increase in the call on Opec oil as the decade progressed. The current Opec output capacity was 27 million bpd, but sustainable production always ran 15 to 20 per cent below capacity, which means that the projected demand for Opec oil would exceed the sustainable output of the organisation by 1995, hence the need to expand this capacity "rapidly".

Opec alone did not have the resources to cope with the investment needed to increase capacity and would, therefore, have to call on other parties in the international oil market to help provide the necessary investment.

"There is, consequently, an urgent need for all parties to engage in serious discussions, to ensure that the seeds of crisis are not given a chance to germinate."

Subroto said Opec had proved its reliability as an oil supplier and thus was annoyed by oft-repeated statements expressing fears of "over-dependence" on a "handful of Middle East states."

He said Opec was keen to ascertain what the implications of a single internal market in Europe would be for the organisation. It appeared that the objective in the case of oil was to keep imports from Third World countries "within reasonable proportions" by maintaining a policy of oil substitution.

The secretary-general stressed that the "unfortunate" era of bad relations between Opec and non-Opec producers and oil consumers was "behind us."

He called on non-Opec oil producers to "co-ordinate their production and pricing policies with Opec to the best of their abilities in the distribution of market shares."

Steps to reduce oil demand without reference to market forces should not be taken, nor should recourse be made to restrictive legislation to produce high-cost domestic energy industries.

He said it was "puzzling" for Opec to be told that oil imports from its member countries constituted a "threat" to the national security of some of the world's most powerful economies.

Dollar eases

LONDON, Feb. 7. (Reuters): The dollar dipped to a two-year low against the West German mark in Europe before rallying to close only slightly down after a day of far-reaching political moves in the Soviet Union and East and West Germany.

Dealers said the market had discounted the immediate impact of the historic agreement by the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee on a plan to give up its monopoly on power.

They said the dollar would remain vulnerable and confidence in the mark would stay strong until more details emerged of the today meeting in Moscow.

"The dollar is likely to remain on hold today as we wait to see what comes of the Soviet meetings," one dealer in Frankfurt said. "The sentiment is still running in favour of the mark."

The mark, which has been supported by a belief that the West German economy stands to gain substantially from East bloc reforms, was further boosted by news that the Bonn cabinet had agreed to start currency union talks with East Germany.

Financial analysts believe a Bonn bailout of the moribund East German economy would stoke inflation and lead to higher interest rates in West Germany.

(The dollar touched a low during trading of 1.6475 marks, the lowest since January 15, 1988, when it opened at 1.6319.

Indian official meets Iraqi minister

NICOSIA, Cyprus, Feb. 7. (AP): A senior Indian official today met in Baghdad with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz with the subject of Iraq's \$500 million debt to India high on the agenda.

The official Iraqi News Agency, monitored in Cyprus, reported the meeting between Aziz and Muckund Dubey, a senior official in India's External Affairs Ministry but gave no details.

In a separate dispatch the agency said the Iraqi-Indian joint committee ended two days of meetings that centred on economic co-operation and sharing Indian expertise in transport and communications.

Dubey met earlier with Iraq's Minister of Transport and Communications, Mohammed Hamza Al Zubiadi, and Oil Minister

Issam Abdul Rahim Al Chalabi, an Indian embassy spokesman said.

He said Iraq's \$500 million debt to India were the main issue of discussion on Dubey's agenda during his talks with Iraqi officials. Iraq owes an estimated \$30 billion to foreign creditors, borrowed during the 1980-88 war against Iran.

Qatar approves Islamic bank

NICOSIA, Feb. 7. (Reuters): Qatar has approved setting up an Islamic bank with a 100 million riyal (\$27.4 million) capital as a shareholding company, a bank spokesman said today.

Faisal Al Saiti, managing director of the new Qatari International Islamic Bank, said a decree establishing the bank was issued by Crown Prince Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani yesterday.

He said the bank's seven-member board would be headed by Justice Minister Sheikh Ahmed Bin Seif Al Thani.

Twenty per cent of the shares have been covered by the founders while the rest will be offered for public subscription within two weeks, Saiti added.

Following Islamic banks regulations based on religious grounds, the bank will charge no interest on loans which will be made in the form of letters of credit to meet any imports.

It will also pay no interest on deposits but shareholders and clients will benefit from any profit made and also bear any losses incurred.

The bank will be based in Doha with plans for future expansion abroad, Saiti said.

The new bank will be separate from the Qatari Islamic Bank already in existence and is designed to expand its operations outside the Gulf.

CANADIAN IMMIGRATION — WINNERS AND LOSERS

by John Garufi and Benito Rotella
(Introduction to a twelve part series)

This could be the first day of the rest of your life.
Actually, that's the first lie.

Give a consultant your technicolor dream of new land and a new life. He'll roll it up in a nice easy-to-handle ball of paper officialdom. Then he'll bounce it over the old mahogany table while you sit around puffing on a few cigars to celebrate. Finally, it will come back to you — shredded to pieces.

Give a good consultant the same dream and he'll first of all change it to black and white. Then he'll take the capital letters out of words like money, freedom, security and those easy-to-sell words. He'll keep the words, but strip them to the facts.

This could be the first day of the rest of your life. Now, that's better.

You already know who we are. You probably already know a lot about Canada. Neither needs to be advertised. We've stopped all the hype. Our clients are too intelligent for that. And we've seen too many heart-breaks in our ten years of experience. So 1990 marks the death of our advertising. We are turning towards giving you the facts. The whole truth and nothing but the truth. Knowing this can guarantee success. Without it, we promise you nothing.

We want to put the CAN back into Canada and take out the AD. You will then be left with "CAN AD". Can a person like you make a success in Canada? How can a new start be made? Can a certain amount of money set up in business in Canada? Can a consultant do everything? The answers are simple. You might even find them cold. But after years of experience we have learned the one thing that makes the difference between a winner and a loser — the truth.

That's why we are running a twelve part series on the facts and fiction of immigration to Canada. You'll never need to say "Why wasn't I told?" That is our responsibility. And we are taking it seriously.

Do you know how much money an average family will need per month to live in Toronto? Or Montreal? Do you know how to go about the whole process of applying for immigration? How long does it take? How much does it take to set up business? Education for the children? What about social welfare programs? What about the difficulties in adapting to a new way of life? What is the difference between life in Montreal, Toronto, Vancouver or Halifax? You've seen the pictures of the quaint world of Halifax, the cosmopolitan dynamics of Montreal, the thriving business world of Toronto. But that is not enough. Which city do you best fit into?

The psychological realities of immigrating are also important. We'll tell you about the first tough two years. And we'll tell you right from the start whether or not you have the financial and personal resources to survive and make that dream of yours become real.

Your political position? How about getting Canadian citizenship? Freedom of religion? Is it still the safest and most compassionate country in the world? We'll give you the facts.

Twelve articles of hard-hitting but encouraging facts about immigrating to Canada might be the most important reading you'll do all year. If you're serious, you'll be looking out for these articles but don't wait. Start doing your own research. Read what you can. And if you can't wait to hear from us through your newspaper, write, ring, fax or send a telex, indicating what you intend to do in Canada and we will send them to you. Free of charge and free of obligation.

And in the end your black and white dream might just become technicolor. But remember we'll be as hard on you as we are on the facts. That's why you'll probably trust us and see us when we visit forty-five countries regularly throughout the year. Get with the strength and stay with the truth. For more information on when and where you can learn whether you will be a winner or loser, contact:

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Eastern Europe's bank debt jumps

BASLE, Switzerland, Feb 7, (Reuters): Most East European countries slipped deeper into debt to Western banks in the third quarter of 1989 as their struggling economies continued to soak up foreign capital, according to the West's clearing bank.

Figures released today by the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) show that the Soviet Union, fighting to modernise, was the region's biggest borrower in the quarter.

Adjusted for exchange rates, its foreign bank debt grew by \$1.58 billion in the period to \$42.06 billion.

Gross debt in Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Hungary and Albania also rose, but other countries' indebtedness declined when exchange rates were adjusted, the BIS said.

The BIS acts as the clearing house for the world's leading central banks and monitors the international flow of money among banks in major financial centres.

Banks reporting to the BIS said their total lending to the region swelled by \$1.93 billion between the end of June and the end of September to \$1.80 billion. The major Western banks loaned the region 5.54 billion in the first half of 1989.

The Soviet Union's borrowing accounted for almost all of the loans to Eastern Europe in the quarter. Its foreign bank debt has risen by around \$9 billion in the year ended last September, making its indebtedness roughly equal to Australia's.

The Soviet Union also withdrew \$675 million in foreign deposits, bringing its total down to \$14.77 billion. In addition, its borrowing on international bond markets rose by \$500 million in the quarter to 1.4 billion.

The next biggest borrower in the period was Czechoslovakia, whose bank debt rose an adjusted 223 million to 4.6 billion. Hungary's debt to BIS reporting banks advanced by 158 million to 11.4 billion and Bulgaria's outstanding borrowing climbed by \$104 million to 7.48 billion.

Romania, which for years endured extreme hardship as the regime of deposed dictator Nicolae Ceausescu pushed exports to pay off its foreign debt, remained the only net creditor country in the region. It owed banks 333 million, compared with 1.45 billion in deposits.

Europe's green revolution could boost Gulf industry

BAHRAIN, Feb 7, (Reuters): The growing power of the "green" revolution could force many West European petrochemical plants to shut down and rebase in areas like the Gulf where energy costs are low, a senior British industrialist said today.

John Banham, director-general of the Confederation of British Industry, told Bahraini businessmen rising costs of pollution control in Europe could be a boon for Gulf Arab states, which want to set up joint-venture industries

with European partners.

"I would not be at all surprised if the leaders of petrochemical companies in Western Europe will find it impossible to operate their plants in a decade's time," he said.

"They will want to base their operations in other places with competitive energy prices and secure energy supply."

Banham said industries most affected by demands to reduce or eliminate toxic emissions would be energy-inten-

sive plants producing chemicals, plastics, steel and textiles.

Environmental control costs and taxation of domestic energy would continue to rise, especially in Britain, he said.

"Political and public opinion will require that plants in Northern Europe are shut down if they do not meet the required environmental standards and the cost of failure to comply with these standards will grow progressively

higher," he said.

"Businessmen in the UK will be looking enviously at the possibility of access to a secure source of power at competitive prices... we will be looking to secure our interests here."

Banham, visiting Bahrain on the first leg of a tour which will also include Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, said it was less expensive to design new plants with latest environmental controls than to adapt existing

ones.

In a bid to allay widespread Arab fears that Western money would increasingly go to East Europe, Banham said Britain would not suddenly divert annual foreign investment totalling about £20 billion (\$34 billion) away from former recipients.

He said Britain was keen to ensure that negotiations for free trade agreement between the European Economic Community and the six-member Gulf Co-operation Council

(GCC) were successful.

Officials from the GCC grouping Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates say they are disappointed with EEC trade proposals because they do not lift painful protective barriers against key Gulf industries.

"In the long run, it cannot be in the interest of Northern European businesses to deny themselves access to a competitively priced supply of raw materials," Banham said.

Move to stave off looming economic collapse

Currency union talks approved

BONN, Feb 7, (Reuters): West Germany called on East Berlin today to agree to immediate negotiations on setting up a currency union meant to stave off looming economic collapse across the border.

The Bonn cabinet, in a rare meeting with West German Central Bank President Karl Otto Poehl, decided to offer its muscular Deutschmark to replace East Germany's feeble currency in a radical step that could force economic reunification soon.

Finance Minister Theo Waigel rushed to parliament after the meeting to tell deputies the "escalation of the crisis" in East Germany had forced Bonn to move fast to force back a wave of frustrated East Germans fleeing to prosperity in the West.

"We must remain master of the political process," Waigel told parliament.

Almost 70,000 East Germans — enough to fill a small city — have crossed the border so far this year, leaving gaping holes in their homeland's labour market and straining West Germany's tight job and housing markets.

Bonn politicians hope introduction of the Deutschmark will convince East Germans their work will be properly paid at home and at Western investors, assured by the West German central bank's control over the East German currency, would swarm into the country to help revive its tattered economy.

It would amount to a virtual annexation of the East German



The head of the West German Bundesbank Karl Otto Poehl (left) talking to East German State Bank president Horst Kaminsky (right) in East Berlin (Reuters wirephoto)

economy, in advance of the political merger both states now say they want, and it would give the Frankfurt-based Bundesbank the final say over East Germany's monetary policy.

Poehl, the official defender of the Deutschmark's value, has persistently warned of problems

a head-over-heels currency union would bring but is careful not to spell them out.

He repeated his opposition after meeting his East German counterpart Horst Kaminsky on Tuesday.

As one senior banking source

put it: "The only alternatives are higher inflation or higher interest rates."

Waigel said there was now no difference between himself, Poehl and Economics Minister Helmut Haussmann, who had proposed a three-step currency plan only reaching unity in 1992.

State-run radio Omdurman said Bashir announced the change on a visit to the central region where most of Sudan's cotton is grown.

Cotton exporters, who sell between \$120 million and 300 million worth of cotton abroad annually, want a rate of 12.2 pounds to the dollar, the same as the rate for remittances sent home by Sudanese working abroad.

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Support for policy reforms

World Bank loans for Poland

WASHINGTON, Feb 7, (UPI): World Bank President Barber Conable yesterday announced the multilateral organization's first two loans to Poland, totalling \$360 million, and said lending to the country could reach \$2.5 billion in the next three years.

The bank's lending programme will focus on supporting further policy reforms in Poland, including measures aimed at promoting a greater reliance on market forces and the private sector, Conable told a news conference.

"These are our first loans to Poland since it joined the bank" in July 1986, Conable said. "Looking to the future, the bank is working with Poland on a lending programme which could reach \$2.5 billion in new commitments over a three-year period."

Conable called the record of the Solidarity-led government of Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki "impressive." The government "has boldly begun to deal with the severe distortions that hamper the economy and has started to introduce the major systemic changes which Poland needs," he said.

World Bank officials said that over the next 18 months, the bank expects to lend Poland around \$1.4 billion in addition to the \$360 million approved Tuesday.

The organization said a \$260



World Bank vice-president of Europe, the Middle East and Africa Willi Wapenhans speaks at a World Bank meeting that was due to approve \$360 million of loans to Poland. The loans would be the first approved by the World Bank for Poland. (Reuters wirephoto)

million loan will support a project to improve Poland's trade with hard currency countries in the West by raising the volume, quality and value of industrial exports.

The project consists of a \$245 million line of credit to the National Bank of Poland to finance export-oriented investments and \$15 million in tech-

nical assistance to help financial institutions and other agencies adjust to the country's economic and political environment.

The project focuses on chemical, electro-engineering and wood-based industries as well as smaller investments in other industries.

Another World Bank loan for \$100 million will support a project to assist Poland's efforts to rehabilitate, modernize and expand agricultural processing industries, easing constraints on sales to hard currency markets.

Conable warned that "others will have to assist Poland, too. Indeed, nothing short of a broad-based international effort is warranted, given Poland's proven commitment to reform and courageous actions to date."

The World Bank president said he expects further actions from official creditors, who hold three-fourths of Poland's \$39 billion debt, to help ease the country's debt service burden.

The major industrial countries are providing Poland with billions of dollars in loans to help its transition from an inefficient centrally planned, inflation-ridden economy to a free market system.

The bank's sister institution, the International Monetary Fund, Monday approved a \$72 million loan to help Poland stabilize its economy.

Media network service unveiled

WASHINGTON, Feb 7, (UPI): MCI Communications Corp., British Telecom and Japan's Kokusai Denshin Denwa announced today the formation of Commax, a new international network service.

The agreement makes possible a multi-media telecommunications network that will offer customers data, voice, and facsimile services.

"MCI said it is the only US communications company to offer this type of service."

Commax, which will be commercially available by mid-1990, will consist of three control centres in Piscataway, New Jersey, Tokyo and London. Commax, available in the United States, can be accessed from the Far East and Europe.

Separately, MCI said that in a first step toward extending internationally its MCI Vnet Service, which affords clients the benefits of a private line

network, it will interconnect with British Telecom to permit US Vnet customers to include the United Kingdom on their networks.

MCI's Vnet Service will be connected with British Telecom's international feature service, British Telecom is expected to inaugurate its international feature service in the fall. Shortly after, MCI and BT are expected to begin trials of the new service.

MCI also announced new advanced features for MCI Vnet Service to add flexibility and management capabilities to the long distance service it provides to large corporations.

The enhancements, introduced at the communication networks '90 exposition annual conference, provide additional routing capabilities and allow for greater customisation of its customers' Vnet Service.

Qatar keen to get Gulf capital

DOHA, Feb 7, (OPECNA): The Qatari government is keen to get Gulf capital into the country to speed up development efforts, according to a senior official here Monday.

Sheikh Khalifa Bin Jassem Al Thani, director at the Ministry of Economy and Trade, said that a number of important steps had been taken in this direction, including laws permitting nationals of Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) states to practise trade activities in Qatar.

He said Qatar was the most active among GCC states in implementing the terms of the unified economic agreement and allowing GCC nationals to engage in trade activities in the country.

Currency rates

KUWAIT, Feb 7, (Kuna): Following are the average KD interest rates as quoted by local banks and announced by the Central Bank of Kuwait today.

| Period | Rate | Rate |
|----------|--------|---------|
| 1 month | 8-7/16 | 8-11/16 |
| 3 months | 8-7/16 | 8-11/16 |
| 6 months | 8-1/2 | 8-3/4 |
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EXCHANGE RATES

| | |
|------------------|----------|
| Indian rupee | 0.017250 |
| Sri Lankan rupee | 0.007340 |
| Pakistani rupee | 0.013670 |
| Bangladesh taka | 0.008930 |
| US dollar | 0.296000 |
| Pound sterling | 0.496250 |
| UAE dirham | 0.079090 |
| Deutsche mark | 0.176100 |
| Japanese yen | 0.002007 |

Boardroom shakeup

Sisters Alicia (right) and Esther Koplowitz, two of Spain's richest women, had been named chairperson and deputy chairperson respectively of Construcciones Y. Contratas, a Grucysa affiliate among the country's biggest industrial and financial concerns. The holding company announced a major boardroom shakeup in the wake of the breakup of the two financially powerful marriages that ran the group. (Reuters wirephoto)

'Labour shortage will be a major problem'

Japan to sustain economic growth till '92

TOKYO, Feb 7, (UPI): Japan's economy will sustain steady growth at least for the next three years, setting a postwar record span of continuous expansion and causing an acute labour shortage, a Japanese economist has predicted.

"The question now is how long the current upturn of the economy will last, and a serious labour shortage will be a major problem to be tackled," said Toshiaki Kakimoto, chief economist of Sumitomo Bank.

He said the current expansion is anticipated to exceed a postwar record span of 57 months from 1965 to 1970.

He based his prediction mainly on robust capital investment and personal consumption, and the little likelihood of economic recession in the United States.

"We anticipate that the US economy will make a moderate upturn in the latter half of this year after a temporary slowdown in the first half and take the soft landing scenario," Kakimoto said.

He estimated net growth of the US economy at 1.7 per cent in 1990, 2.4 per cent in 1991 and 2.9 per cent in 1992.

Kakimoto forecast Japan's economy will grow at an annual rate of 4.3 per cent for the 1990-92 period. Its growth for fiscal 1989, ending next March 31, is estimated at 4.5 per cent.

He said sustained growth of the Japanese economy will cause an acute labour shortage in 1992.

"In order to avoid this situation, efforts must be made to raise the productivity and labour-force participation ratio of each sex and age," he said.

He estimated the labour force in 1992 at 65.06 million against demand of 66.75 million, causing a 1.69 million shortage.

"Efforts must be made both by the government and enterprises to raise participation of female workers, particularly in the 20-49 age bracket," he said.

Female workers in that age group accounted for 64 per cent of the total work force in Japan in 1989, compared with 72 per cent for the United States and 73 per cent for Canada, he said.

Kakimoto said Japanese manufacturers will continue capital investment overseas to

shift their production but the decrease in jobs at home can be absorbed in the process of economic expansion.

He said capital investment at home is expected to continue at a high level in the next three years because domestic demand will remain brisk.

Japan's capital investment in fiscal 1989 was estimated at \$608 billion against \$525 billion in 1988. They compared with the US figures of \$513 billion in calendar 1989 and \$487 billion in 1988.

Kakimoto said strong personal consumption will be supported by rising wages and price stability attributable to a high yen.

He predicted the yen will further appreciate against the dollar toward 1992.

Spending on leisure activities will also become vigorous because the number of elderly households will increase in the aging society, he said.

He discounted the possibility of another discount rate hike by the Bank of Japan this year on grounds that domestic prices remain stable, supported by a strong yen.

Japan to revolutionise global economy

External assets will grow: economist

TOKYO, Feb 7, (Kuna): An American economic expert today predicted that Japan would revolutionise global economy during this decade, where different world economic blocs had emerged.

Dr Kenneth Curtes, economics lecturer at Tokyo University, said in statements to Kuna today that the Japanese economy would grow by an average of 25 to 30 per cent during the 1990s as a result of appreciation of the yen against the American dollar.

He forecast that by 1998, Japan's economy would be twice its current volume and the country's gross national product would reach 85 per cent that of the US, despite that Japan's population is half the US and its area is very little compared to the US.

Indicating that major economic changes witnessed by Japan during the '70s were a direct result of developments in the '60s, Dr Curtes noted, "we can safely say that (Japan's) long-term investments directed towards productivity in the eighties will be evident this decade. We should not also underestimate importance of planning," he added.

Asked about his vision of the new Japan, the

American expert expected, among other things, Japan's external assets would markedly increase in the current decade, adding "we will see Japan at the height of strength by the middle of the decade and its transformation into a world laboratory for new products and commodities supported by active services and up-to-date designs and development."

Substantiating his argument, he said about 30,000 different components are involved in the manufacture of cars today while Japanese automakers are working to reduce this number to a few hundred in the next years. This, Dr Curtes said, means that a consumer can make his pick of a car from a variety of options and according to his own specifications.

The expert saw Japan as the centre of a new Pacific integrated and dynamic economic bloc similar to the European Economic Community where it will be the main player.

He expected a state of recession in the early '90s, which will not be severe, at the end of which "countries in the Pacific, rather than the US will act as the locomotive pulling world economy. I once again believe Japan will be at the centre of this grouping."

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Indian Cinema

Powerful villains

New evil forces storm silver screen

By Firoze Rangoonwalla
Arab Times correspondent

THE villain has got a face-lift. He has been winning over the public with gentle smiles, suave manners, respectable dresses, decent speech, even a touch of the comic or the eccentric. He even has a human side and good reasons for his evil deeds. With this likable image, he is posing a threat to the heroes who have been forced to change their strategy.

It is not the case of a villain turned hero. It is not even the bad man playing a golden-hearted character, as Pran once did in *Upkar*. It is a straight case of a die-hard villain hid under the garb of sweetness and simplicity of style. Cinegoers have begun to like such evil men. Those villains who were once hooted and booed when they met their fate are now sort of idolised... sometimes more than the goody goody heroes.

Anupam Kher has led this new brigade of soft villains, who show their claws, fangs and true colours only when the occasion demands. They are quite human till they have to be inhuman, for achieving their aims. In *Chal-baz*, Kher is given an extra layer of frontal teeth, so that he can keep giving a toothy, boyish smile in between his foul deeds. In *Bhrastachar*, Kher plays a degenerate minister, who is outwardly all for public good. He always stops his security men (goons) from roughing up anybody. Only a few people see the iron hand in silken gloves.

Writers and directors say: what is the fun if a bad man behaves bad and shows all his teeth? He must behave like a sheep and keep the wolf in him hidden. So, they are devising newer and newer ways of shaping the villainous image. In *Parinda*, Nana Patekar looks almost innocent and driven by his unbalanced mind. His talk and gestures are quick and casual. He communicates more with his hands. He has a weakness: fire. He has burnt alive his wife and child in a fit of fury and the memory haunts him. Finally, the hero destroys him through his weakness.

Amrish Puri, tall, hefty and with a voice striking terror, has to be the villain of the piece in *Mr. India*.



Comics with a sinister motive: Raza Murali, Amjad Khan and Gulshan



New garb: Jekyll and Hyde Shakti Kapoor and Anupam Kher

change colours to behave gently or sweetly. He set a good example in his role as Mogambo in *Mr. India*. Dressed in an outlandish costume and behaving like some crazy dictator, he won adulation from the audience, including children. And his "Mogambo Khush Hua" line became a catch phrase. That may pass off as a cartoonish, comic-book charac-

ter. But Puri has also lent the soft edge to many hard realistic nasties. Sadashiv Amrapurkar, the short dark angry villain is learning these lessons the hard way. It went down well in art films like *Ardh Satya* in which played a powerful but simple lord of the underworld with high connec-

too, he has put on kid gloves, trying to draw some sympathy. Kadar Khan is already an expert at this. He speaks so much and in such a mind-bending way that he makes his evil acts seem justified. He is also a superb snake in the grass, since he does his dirty work within the domestic ambit. He is the perfect villain of family dramas.

"Sometimes, the villains are big industrialists when they are not politicians. It has become a common sport of producers to deride both, ever since the censors became extra liberal. So it is corporate cruelty, with money and stock exchange ruining the rivals. Danny, Ranjeet, Paresh Rawal and others often play safari-suited, smooth-tongued, cigar-smoking businessmen who hold immense powers to perpetrate their ghoulish deeds. At times, they hide under a cloak of religion, by appearing to be holy or God-fearing men. Once it was Kanhaiyalal, now it is Prem Chopra doing the act of "moonah pe Rama, baag mein chhauri" a wolf in sheep's clothing or Amrish Puri playing a swami as in *Jadugar*.

Gulshan Grover takes great pains over his make-up and ornaments to be the champion of evil among the young modern villains. He, thus, gets easily accepted, as in *Love Love Love*.

The last resort of the bad man has been comedy. In the last few years we had the strange admixture of funny-villains. Shakti Kapoor, Amjad Khan and Prem Chopra have almost turned it into a fine art. The buffoonery often dilutes their dastardly deeds, as in many a Southern film. Entire gangs of villains and their henchmen in recent action films have been studded with jokes and visual gags.

With all this, it is time for the hero to become the villain himself. Kamal Hassan did a marvellous job of the soft don in *Nayakan* but Vinod Khanna spoilt it with his hardness in *Dayavanam*. In dacoit and desert dramas most heroes are the robbing-killing type. In *Ram Lakhan* and *Parinda* both the heroes have negative qualities and in others they are a part of the underworld.

Indian myth believers say that we have indeed entered the era of evil, Kalyug, an age when the bad people outnumber the good ones. And the force of evil, its triumph and longevity are becoming a powerful tool, admired, respected and even worshipped. Are we, then, on the verge of a new century, the century of crime?



Good, the bad and the ugly: Parash Rawal, Amrish Puri and Gulshan Grover

Mini meet: Amrita Singh

'I am Mard Singh', and tops

After the frivolous romantic role of *Betaab*, Amrita cleverly manipulated her career in a way to get titled as a class actress. She got good prices and prestige, despite a lack of histrionics. In a recent informal talk, she gave vent to her feelings about all that is being said about her.

Q. You were lucky enough to get big films with Amitabh, Dharmendra, Vinod Khanna, Anil Kapoor etc. But you did not make any individual impact to rise to the top. Why?

A. Firstly, it was not mere luck. It was talent and personality that got me good projects. Whenever I had scope I made a strong impression and even the critics praised me. I don't know what reaching the top exactly means. I am one of the top heroines.

Q. But in films like *Jadugar* and *Toofan* you had nothing to do?

A. It happens when big films are rewritten and re-edited. But I love working with Amitabh. I am his fan. What I lost out in one or two films, will be made up with the role I have in *Akelya*.

Q. But Anil Kapoor is a safer bet these days?

A. I did the hit *Saheb* with Anil when he was not even a star. Even now I have no hassles working with him, if offers come. But nobody can become another Amitabh Bachchan ever again. That is for sure.

Q. They say that your slightly bulkier physique, age and acting go against you?

A. I don't know. I am what I am. And I have been accepted and liked as such, for eight years.

Q. Why don't directors repeat you?

A. I don't believe in forming or joining "camps". I work with everyone, whether directors or actors.

Q. Don't you think the stories of a link-up with Vinod have slowed down your career?

A. An artist also has his own personal, emotional life. We are not just puppets before the camera. But any link-up with Vinod did not come in the way of my career, as I kept getting films continuously. If it had any adverse effects, I would cut down on such relationships.

Q. But can you continue working after marriage?

A. Hema Malini, Anita Raj, Shabana have all done it. Why can't I?



Amrita: no 'babying'

Q. Is your mother Rukhsana Sultan steering your life from the background?

A. No, she is in Delhi and she hardly interferes, unless I want her help. You never see her on my sets or "babying" me around like other heroines and their mothers. I am strong enough to handle my own affairs and deals. Yet I am not Mard Singh, in the sense which people use.



MADHURI: "I am waiting for the man who will come and tell me: Madhuri, I love you. He must be tall, smart, handsome, devoted and very very rich."



PARVEEN BABI: "I do not hold my relatives, friends, employers and industry people responsible because they had no malice towards me. The only person I hold responsible is Mr Amitabh Bachchan."



RISHI KAPOOR: "I think Sri Devi is lucky for me. Look at *Nagina* and *Chandni*. We are indeed a lucky pair. But the real lucky man will be the one who marries Sri Devi. It's a matter of luck to marry a beauty like Sri."



SHATRUGHAN SINHA: "Has any doctor ordered me that I have to fight elections and sit in the Parliament?"



AAMIR KHAN: They are calling *Love Love Love* a flop. But you should know that it did better business than *Jadugar* and *Shehzade*.

Behind the screen

A short take

Aamir Khan with all his outer garb of co-operation and devotion has also harassed producers. Like the man producing *Afana Pyar Ka* with him, Neelam and Neeta Puri. The golden boy smelt no gold in this. Rather, he thought the current craze, Madhuri would bring him a hit. So all the dates went to Dil and *Divana Mujhse Nahin*. But the *Afana* producer also used the current tactics of threatening and forcing. So Aamir mostly gave the dates and came for the shoot.

Oye, Oye Oye

The nation-wide yell "Oye oye" is also used in sexy, provocative situations. Its worst application was for the art film *Trishna* also called *Hawas Ki Pyaar*. When cinegoers saw Pallavi bathing in her birthday suit, against a Buddhist background, they shouted "Oye Oye" from the commercial *Trishna* throwing caution to the winds.

Another story

Till now there used to be provision stores and department stores. Now there are also "story stores". One such advertised regularly is *Surekha Garg Story Bhandar*, with its office in a small hotel in Bombay. The writer queries producers about the gains they have made from scripts of famous film writers, and then answers himself saying "State formulas and poor copies of foreign films". What Mr Garg offers, after 14 years of self-imposed exile from the industry, are twenty original stories, which he guarantees to be box-office super hits. He believes that the cinegoer always wants new stories. Two titles offered by the store are "Miss Amitabh Bachchan" and "Playboy". Any takers?

Shelf life

It seems that a wave of autobiographies is going to hit our film people soon. They saw the lavishly brought out books of foreign stars and directors and thought there is money in it. Some like V. Shantaram, Leela Chitnis and others have already published such life stories but they are not in English and too dull. Now Mahesh Bhatt threatens to write an epic novel on his own life, after filming partially the lives of people like Rajesh Khanna, Dimple, Smriti Patil, Parveen Babi, apart from his father and daughter. Others on the track for self-books are Asha Bhonsle, Dilip Kumar and Ashok Kumar. Do they know that only scandal sells these days? Even big publishing houses want sensational stuff. Will these people be bold enough, like Hollywood stars, to expose themselves as well as others?

For her eyes only

Parveen Babi's hand-written true story running into 1,500 pages could have made a big deal for a muck-raking publisher. But then it reads like gibberish of an unsettled mind and is also defamatory. Moreover, Babi did not even want to get it photo-copied except under personal supervision. Only some pages were leaked out to the gossip press. Each carried her signature.

Heard but not seen: Academy Award-winner George C. Scott will be heard but not seen in *Cartoon All-Stars to the Rescue*, "an animated anti substance-abuse entertainment special for children. Scott will create the voice of "Smoke," an evil, drug-pushing apparition and one of the new animated characters featured in the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences anti-drug show scheduled for broadcast on April 21 on all three American networks.

The performance will be Scott's second-successful assignment this year as the voice of an animated villain. The earlier job was for Disney studios' new feature-length cartoon, *"The Rescuers Down Under."*

Cast reassembled: Bruce Willis will reprise his tough-guy cop role in *"Die Hard 2"* at 20th Century Fox under the direction of Renny Harlin on locations in Denver.

Producers Lawrence Gordon, Joel Silver and Charles Cordon have enticed other original cast members to rejoin the action: Bonnie Bedelia, William Atherton and Reginald Vel Johnson. Newcomers to the cast are Franco Nero, Bill Sadler and John Amos.

This time around the action switches from a Los Angeles high rise to a major east coast international airport, which becomes an arena for terrorist operations.

Sinatra tour: Frank Sinatra, who toured the country last year with Sammy Davis Jr and Liza Minnelli, will hit the road again this year, this time in tandem with his pal, comedian Doo Rieckles.

Beginning in August the pair will appear in Sacramento and other California cities before heading for Atlanta, Cincinnati, Chicago, Milwaukee and stops in New Jersey, New York and Maine.

Billed as the chairman of the board and Mr Warmth, Sinatra and Rieckles, although long-time friends, have never performed together in concert.

Foster presents: Jodie Foster, winner of last year's Oscar for best actress for her performance in *"The Accused,"* will appear on this year's Academy

Award show to hand out the Oscar for best actor. Foster, who was also nominated for best supporting Actress in 1976 for her work in *"Taxi Driver,"* will make her third appearance as a presenter on the Awards Special on March 26.

Foster sang one of the nominated songs at the 46th Awards and at the 50th show presented the short film award.

Saddle sores: The box-office success of *"Young Guns,"* starring Emilio Estevez, Kiefer Sutherland, and Lou Diamond Phillips, has inspired *"Young Guns II,"* already in production.

In this sequel to the 1988 horse opera hit, the youthful band of outcasts—under the leadership of Billy the Kid—jump back into their saddles to dispense more violent death in the Old West.

Christian Slater joins the fray on locations in Arizona and New Mexico. Rounding out the cast are William L. Petersen as Pat Garrett, Alan Ruck and James Coburn.

Bakker blast: The tawdry story of Jim and Tammy Bakker will come to television under the title of *"Fall from Grace,"* with Kevin Spacey playing the now-imprisoned televangelist and Bernadette Peters as his wife.

The NBC two-hour movie, scheduled for broadcast this spring, explores the rise and fall of the Bakkers and their empire, beginning in 1980 and ending in 1987.

Ken Trevey is writer and supervising producer of the TV film, which will be directed by Karen Arthur.

Lansbury salute: James Garner and Bea Arthur will appear at a special TV academy gala on Feb 22, honouring Angela Lansbury for her long-running success in the series *"Murder, She Wrote."* The tribute at the Beverly Hilton Hotel's International Ballroom, will be attended by Academy members, celebrities and dignitaries.

Excerpts from many of Lansbury's television projects will be screened at the tribute, beginning with her appearance in a 1954 presentation of *"A String of Beads."*

FAMILY DOCTOR

By DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

Sinusitis can cause dangerous complications

Question: A splitting headache drove me to the doctor's office, where after an examination, the diagnosis of sinusitis was made. A prescription for an antibiotic was given to me, but I sensed that my doctor was very concerned. I was required to return in just three days, even though everything seemed to be going fine. Can you read my doctor's mind and tell me what he was worrying about?

Answer: It's not difficult to imagine the concerns of a caring physician when faced with a case of acute sinusitis. He was already visualising the possible complications and was planning your care to avoid those possibilities.

The sinuses are actually hollow spaces within the bones that form parts of the skull, normally filled with just air, and lined with delicate mucous membranes. When an infection strikes, the membranes become swollen and may close the small holes (ostium), which provide drainage for the liquid normally formed by the tissue and allow for the free passage of air in and out of the sinus. As a result, the air in the sinus is absorbed by blood cells in the membranes, and the pressure within the sinus drops, (vacuum sinusitis) which can be painful.

If this condition persists, the membranes then produce large amounts of fluid which fill the sinus cavity, and which can serve as perfect breeding grounds for bacteria. As the body attempts to defend against this infection, it pours additional serum and white blood cells into the area, and soon creates a positive pressure within this closed space, causing pain, often described as "splitting," and tenderness. This can lead to the extension of the infection beyond the sinus, provoking infections in the orbit of the eye (orbital cellulitis), as well as within the skull itself (meningitis and brain abscesses).

However, full doses of appropriate antibiotics, ampicillin or amoxicillin in most cases, for 10 to 14 days, is usually sufficient to prevent these serious complications. Drainage of the sinus may be aided by using a vapouriser, which helps to reduce the pressure, relieve the pain and hasten the recovery.

Question: There are a few dollars riding on this ooe. While I take the position that there are still cases of leprosy in this country, my friend believes it has generally been wiped out here and that only a few cases still exist, only in poorer countries. Who takes home the money?

Answer: You do, my friend, going away. There are, in fact, over five million registered cases of leprosy in the world, and experts believe the actual figure is probably nearer to 12 million. Approximately 3,000 cases are here in the United States and some 200 patients are cared for at the National Hansen's Disease Centre in Carville, La. There were even 46 new cases reported by the New York City Department of Health in 1984, the highest number in many years.

Gerhard Armauer Hansen, a Norwegian physician for whom the disease is now named, discovered the bacteria responsible for the disease in 1874, before the discoveries by Louis Pasteur and Robert Koch of bacteria that caused anthrax and tuberculosis.

Prior to Hansen's work, it was thought that leprosy was inherited and incurable. Today, Hansen's disease may be treated with a number of medications, used in combination, including dapsone, clofazimine, rifampin and ethionamide, which are capable of curing the infection.

Happy birthday



Meena turns 6 on February 11



Cammal Farid turns 12 on February 9



Nishant Singh turns 14 on February 12



Hamayun Khalid turns 8 on February 9



Mustafa Mithawala turns 1 on February 8



Ryan Nazareth turns 7 on February 12



Garish Remedeos turns 2 on February 12



Nabel T. Babu turns 7 on February 11



Aaron Mascarenhas turns 3 on February 10



Orin Pereira turns 4 on February 3



Rima Mendonca turns 11 today February 8



Lee Ann D'sa turns 4 today February 8

Congratulations



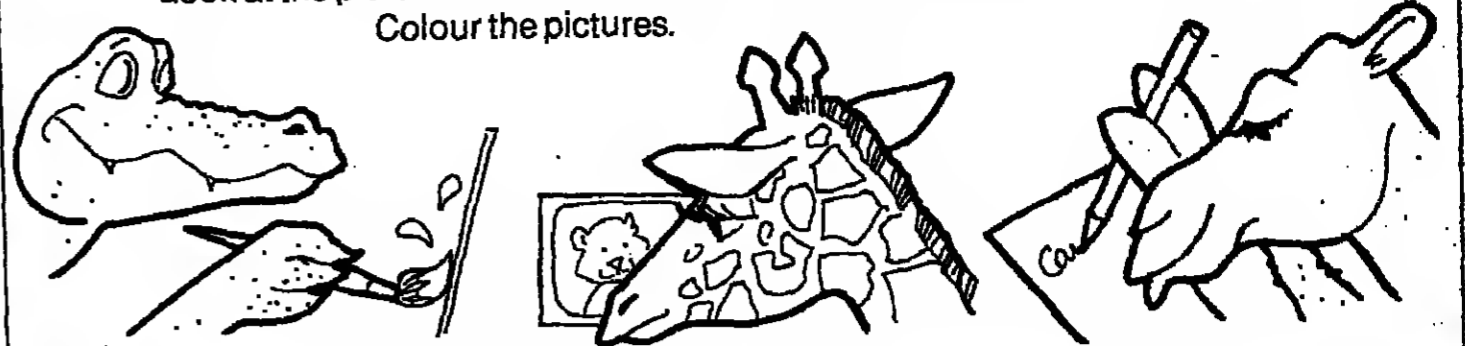
Fredlinah Cabatic turned 3 months on February 6. May her future be filled with love and blessings from mummy and daddy (Freddie and Linah), Connie, Fred, Agnes, Ray, Paris, Lisa, Cely, Mar, Dan and Vincent.

Thoughts

I have loved so many yet, none
I have been loved by many yet, none
Be practical they say,
they cannot love nor be loved,
only pitied and envied.
Pitied because they are fools,
envied because they are at the top.
But, is this life?
do you want to be at the top,
leaving others behind?
those who went ahead of you,
shielded you, protected you?
will you make it to the top,
with that guilt in you?
Of course, it is your life,
you are the master and the slave,
the good and the evil,
both sides of the coin.
Turn our actions, we write,
our destiny and of others as well.
Life shall go on,
practically the achievement,
status the goal.
Tomorrow shall come, as did today,
under the stars, someone shall say,
I have loved so many yet, none
I have been loved by many yet, none.
To some, death comes sudden,
to others it is slow,
then, isn't life itself death?
isn't it the happiness of death, so slow
so peaceful,
or the sorrow of it so quick?
Now you exist, while others go
the parting shall come,
here or there,
you shall not want it yet,
you will want it.
Life is a big show,
always comes to an end,
the end, is what you choose
and, choose you shall,
there is enough time to go — Rajat Kapoor.

What are they doing?

Look at the pictures below. What are these animals doing? Fill in the spaces.
Colour the pictures.



The crocodile is The giraffe is The camel is

Number fun

Count the number of objects in the circle. Write out the number on the dotted line and fill in the box. The first one is done for you.

| | | | |
|--|-----------|--|---|
| | q nine | | s |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

Variety

Video Corner

Unlikely charmers

By Shaun Seekins

The Fabulous Baker Boys is a low-keyed, moody examination of two minor-league lounge pianists, who after 20 years of playing together decide to modernise their act by employing a female vocalist. The Baker boys are in fact the Bridges brothers, Beau plays the elder of the two, the organiser and driving force behind the two musicians, while Jeff is a chain-smoking, moody hanger-on who just seems to have become resigned to the fact that he is trapped into playing endless lounge standards with his brother. The vocalist they choose is Suzy Diamond (Michelle Pfeiffer), a girl who has been around the escort services and decides to try her luck as a crooner. She matches Jeff in surliness and in her habit of chain smoking, altogether the trio are not very attractive personalities.

This really is the problem with the film, although all three principal performances are superb, Jeff in particular plays such a sullen character, that despite a desire to like him, you just can't. Pfeiffer's performance is the most important and she turns in an excellent one, treading a fine line between Jeff's cynicism and Beau's tiresome enthusiasm.

That said, the film also has many good things about it. Pfeiffer's performances as a crooner are worth watching several times over, and the musical score by Dave Grusin is a delight for blues fans.

Christopher Walken returns to the screen in an adaptation of Whitney Strieber's Best selling book about his abduction by alien creatures Communion. In his book Strieber tells a story that what he claims is autobiographical. A successful novelist with a beautiful New York apartment, a lovely up-state

cabin in the forest and an equally desirable family, he seems to have everything going for him. However, during a quiet weekend in the country with friends it all starts to turn upside down. Commencing with brilliant lights streaming through the windows and continuing with strange sensations of unseen visitors, Strieber's guests become so distressed that they ask to cut short their visit and leave.

Strieber remembers that the aliens performed an operation on him by inserting glowing needles into his head and even though his wife Ann discovers a needle mark behind her husband's ear, both of them dismiss the experiences as hysterical hallucinations. Their seven-year-old son also describes the aliens, but they are unable to convince themselves that it is anything more than childish nightmares. Strieber finally decides to seek medical help when he narrowly misses killing his wife with a shot-gun. His psychiatrist (played by Frances Sternhagen) puts him under hypnosis which reveals that the aliens come in two sizes, wrinkled little gnomes and rather ethereal faces with large black eyes. A scary movie, not so much for what see, but in the sense of foreboding and menace that threatens an ordinary domestic situation.

Romero is a powerful story about a priest in San Salvador who tries to fight for the rights of the people against a brutal army dictatorship. A distressing film, one to watch and be thankful that we are not exposed to similar situations. Raoul Julia gives a convincing performance as "the mouse who becomes a tiger."

The above films are by courtesy of The Video Club, Salimya tel 5724372, Fintas Towers, Farwana and Salimiah Complex.



Jack and Frank Baker (Frank Susie Diamond) in the Fabulous Baker Boys.

On the Record

Rock, pop, blues — a musical journey on crossroads

ROCK, POP, BLUES

ERIC CLAPTON, "Journeyman" (reprise, 926074-2)

Eric Clapton likes jamming with just about everybody these days. And no one's complaining, especially not the musicians who share the stage with slowhand. So it's really no surprise that George Harrison, Robert Cray, Phil Collins, Chaka Khan, and a score of other musicians were willing to help out on Clapton's latest release, "Journeyman."

This is not the all-blues project that some loyalists began anticipating when the Clapton mega-compilation "crossroads" was released in 1988. Instead "Journeyman" accommodates both the newcomers and those who have followed Clapton for three decades.

The first cut, "pretending," is the epitome of '80s drum-

programmed electronic sound that captured lots of radio play, it is redeemed by Clapton's guitar work and Chaka Khan's backing vocals. The same can be said about "No Alibis," another pop-oriented cut backed by Daryl Hall.

"Run So Far" is George Harrison's contribution; he wrote the tune and throws in his still near east-sounding guitar licks and backing vocals. Like most Harrison music, "Run So Far" transcends the limited pop musical boundaries and is a welcome addition to this project.

For blues fans, Clapton serves up a pretty rendition of the Ray Charles classic, "Hard Times." But the big blues breakthrough for "Journeyman," is the bonding of Clapton and Cray.

The two trade off soulful guitar work on five cuts, includ-

ing "Old Love," which was written by Clapton and Cray. These guys ought to get together again. (UPI)

JAZZ

CHRIS FLORY, "For All We Know" (Concord Jazz, CCD-4403)

Guitarist Chris Flory, longtime member of saxophonist Scott Hamilton's neo-classical swing band, is out with his first recording under his own name and it is a fun-loving dandy.

His always swinging style comes from the heart, melding nicely with three longtime Hamilton buddies — pianist Mike Ledonne, bassist Phil Flanigan and drummer Chuck Riggs.

The finest tunes here are the ones in which Ledonne shifts to organ, giving Flory the bluesy kick that brings out the best in his

playing. Standouts include "Avalon," "Tenderly," "Air Mail Special," "Lullaby of the Leaves," a laid-back version of the title tune, and an original called "Ninth Avenue Shuffle." (UPI)

COUNTRY

HANK WILLIAMS JR., "Lone Wolf" (Warner Bros. Curh, 26090-4)

There's a little bit of everything in this release by Hank Williams Jr., who said the lead song, "Good Friends, Good Whiskey, Good Women," is about his life and the things he's thankful for. It's a typical upbeat tune by Williams.

The mood switches abruptly with "USA Today," a song about how everything may not be perfect in America, but the refugees keep coming.

Williams teams with Jimmy C. Newman on a stirring remake of the Cajun classic, "Big Mamou." Other remakes include "Almost Persuaded" and the old jazz piece, "Ain't Nobody's Business." Both are performed with great force by Williams. "Long Wolf" is an album that simply caters to Williams fans and relies on the same approach that has been so successful for him in the past. (UPI)

CLASSICAL

CARLOS CHAVEZ, New York Stadium Symphony, Chavez: Sinfonia India, Sinfonia de Antigua, Sinfonia Romantica" (Phillips, 422 305)

Aaron Copland was visiting his friend Carlos Chavez in Mexico when he got the idea for "El Salon Mexico," the work with which Copland initiated the new,

accessible style that made him the one modern composer everybody likes.

Chavez, too, wrote some fine, accessible music on a scale about the same as that of "El Salon Mexico," including the three tone poems on this CD. "Sinfonia India" is classical music you can dance to. In fact, the problem is keeping your feet still. "Sinfonia de Antigua" has cold, eerie harmony. "Sinfonia Romantica" has a ruminative middle movement reminiscent of the slow movement of Copland's third symphony.

These recordings were made in 1958 on 35mm and it is astounding how good the sound is. The CD booklet not only fails to give the real identity of the New York Stadium Symphony, on the back it misspells it "Studium" (UPI)

Fashion

Japanese conquer Paris catwalks

By Lee Yanowitch

PARIS, Feb. 7, (Reuters): The 1990 men's autumn and winter collections sealed it—the Japanese have added high fashion to their other Western conquests.

And they have done it Japanese-style, with a combination of discipline and creative flair that has made four of them the envy of the catwalks.

While most French couturiers stick to classical shapes or, like Jean-Paul Gaultier, rely on shock-appeal, the Japanese are more innovative. It has bought them the respect of the buying public and the critics alike.

Yohji Yamamoto has even been the subject of a documentary by West German filmmaker Wim Wenders, who celebrates the soft-spoken Tokyo-born creator as a true artist.

"The Japanese have an extraordinary approach to things. They're very disciplined," said British fashion commentator Jackie Moore. Issey Miyake, an apprentice with Givenchy in the 1960s whose fabric inventions have been exhibited in art museums, has earned a solid and respected position in Paris.

One of his claims to fame was a fabric he created of special paper made for him by elderly women versed in the 1,000-year-old art of Japanese paper-making.

"Miyake is the greatest of the Japanese designers," said Claude Mirey, president of the International Men's and Boy's Wear trade show. "He has found the perfect balance between abundant creativity and strict discipline."

The 1990 menswear fashion season was kicked off last week by Kenzo, whose flashy profile and now-predictable bright and flowery patterns make him known as an essentially Parisian designer.

"Kenzo's not even Japanese anymore, he's almost completely Parisian," said Mirey.

Matsuda, one of the few Japanese houses that enjoys greater fame back home than in Europe, presented one of the most original collections of the week — though not the most wearable — with designer Yukio Kobayashi's homage to 19th-

century English novelist Charles Dickens.

Pale and bespectacled round-shouldered adolescents, in sleeveless sack coats and heavy work aprons, looked as though they had spent the day working in Dickensian factories.

Shapes

While floppy hats tacked in strange shapes and shapeless trousers in muted shades of coarse wool were reminiscent of Victorian England, fitted black pants with white tuxedo shirts provided an alternative evening dress.

Meanwhile at the Paris Natural History Museum, Comme des Garçons' unshaven models slouched down the catwalk in female designer Rei Kawakubo's loose-fitting suits and glossy quilted trousers that are considered the cutting edge of young trendy fashion.

Turtleneck dickeys were thrown haphazardly over white undershirts, while grey flannel slacks gathered at the ankle and rubber-soled shoes were the trademark of the minimalist collection.

"I wouldn't be caught dead in any of that," said one spectator. "It's all pretty hideous to me."

Yamamoto disagreed: "I loved it. There are some very strong ideas."

Although they have penetrated the closed world of Paris fashion the Japanese still have to fight to be considered more than representatives of homespun design.

"My clothes should have no nationality. But when I came to Paris I realized I was Japanese and I represented Japanese fashion. And I'm still struggling with that today," Yamamoto says.

Yamamoto, who as a teenager assisted his mother in her Tokyo dress shop, moved away from his obsession with black in his men's collection. One of his eye-catchers this year was a black blazer with multi-coloured vinyl patches.

Tweed patchwork blazers, dusty salmon suits, and a series of fine navy wool ensembles with loose flowing shapes bore Yamamoto's signature of novelty combined with classicism.

Did you know?

- ▶ A giraffe has the same number of bones in its neck as a human.
- ▶ Chimpanzees have been taught to 'talk' using sign language.
- ▶ Cats spend two-thirds of their lives asleep.
- ▶ Snakes can have up to three hundred pairs of ribs.
- ▶ One type of snake, the python, can swallow much bigger animals, such as antelopes, whole!
- ▶ A type of lizard, called a chameleon, can change the colour of its skin to tone in with its surroundings. And it can swivel its eyes to look in two different directions at the same time.



Just for laughs!

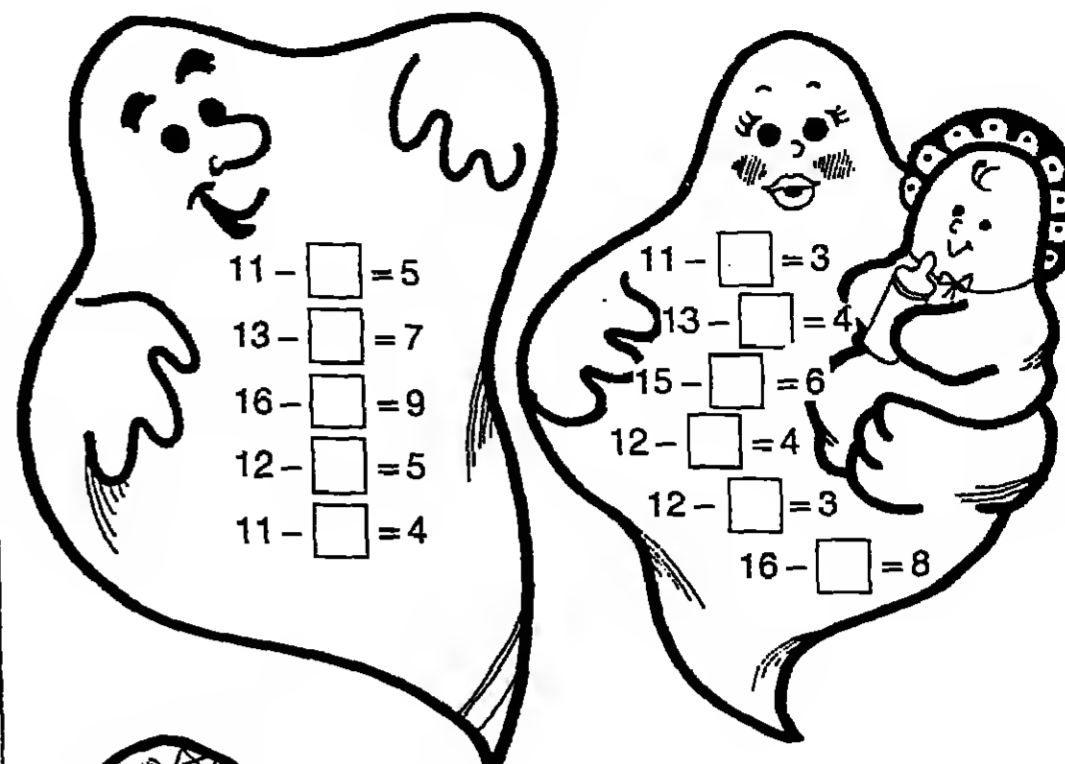
Was Dracula ever married?
No, he was a bat-chelor.

What is the ghosts' favourite pub?
The Horse and Gloom.

How does a ghost count?
One Boo Three Four Five Six Seven Hate Nine Frighten!

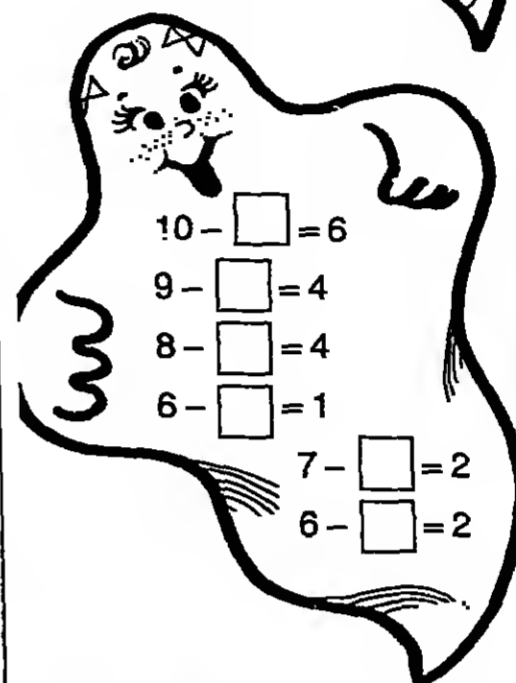
What did the Hungarian ghost have for lunch?
Ghoulash.

Ghosts



$$\begin{array}{rcl} 11 - \square & = & 5 \\ 13 - \square & = & 7 \\ 16 - \square & = & 9 \\ 12 - \square & = & 5 \\ 11 - \square & = & 4 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{rcl} 11 - \square & = & 3 \\ 13 - \square & = & 4 \\ 15 - \square & = & 6 \\ 12 - \square & = & 4 \\ 12 - \square & = & 3 \\ 16 - \square & = & 8 \end{array}$$

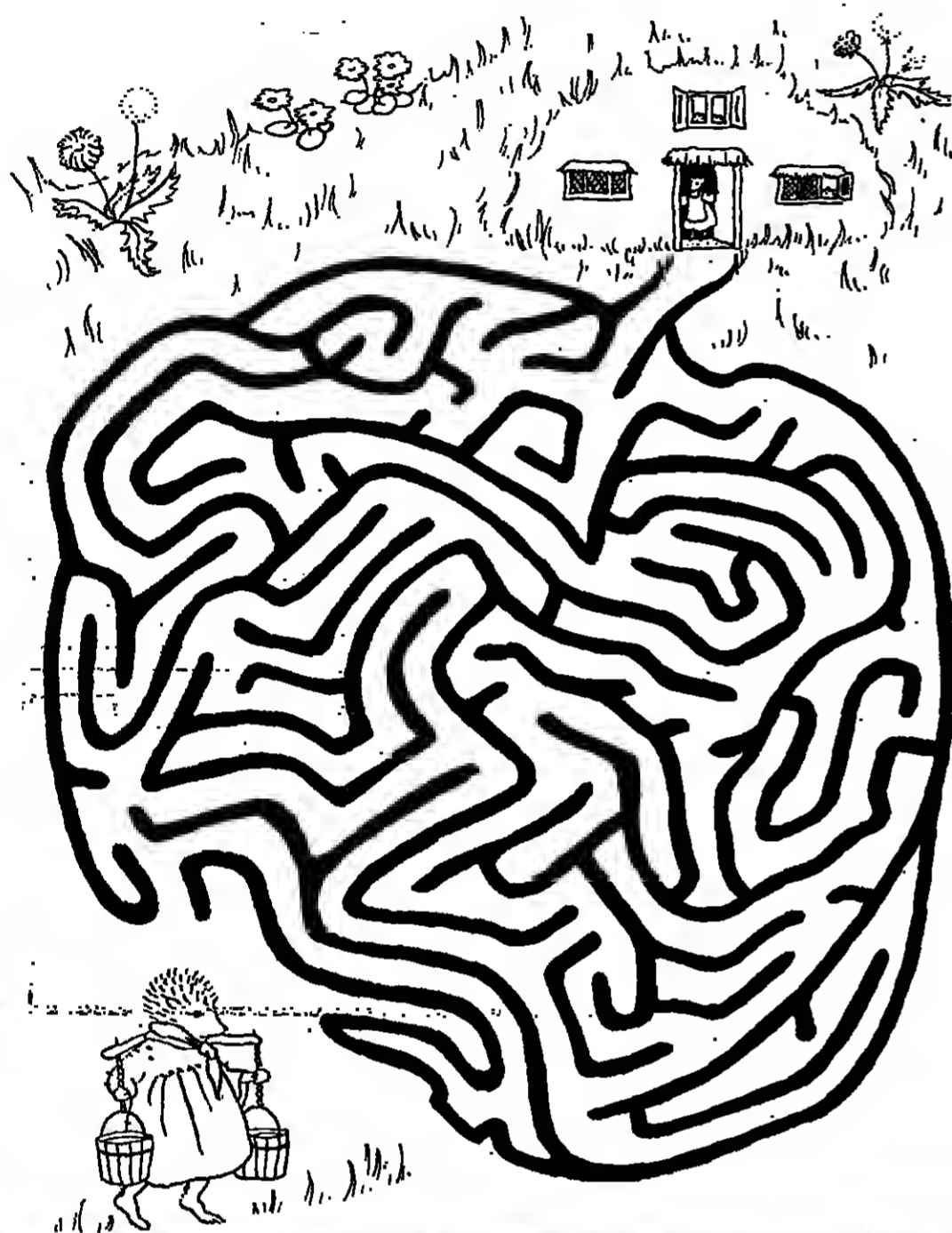


$$\begin{array}{rcl} 10 - \square & = & 6 \\ 9 - \square & = & 4 \\ 8 - \square & = & 4 \\ 6 - \square & = & 1 \\ 7 - \square & = & 2 \\ 6 - \square & = & 2 \end{array}$$

Find the missing addend. Color the ghost:
green if the missing number is: 4 or 5.
blue if the missing number is: 6 or 7.
yellow if the missing number is: 8 or 9.

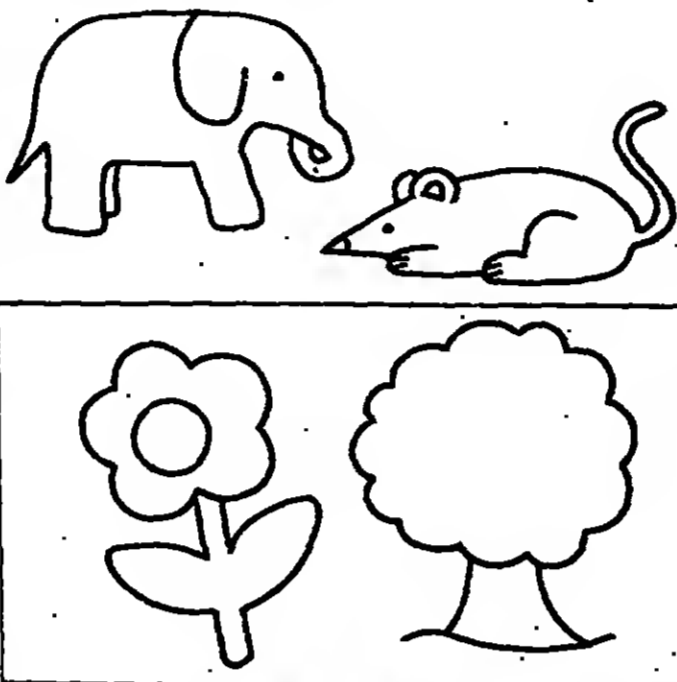
Which way?

Help Hedgehog find his way to Mouse's house.

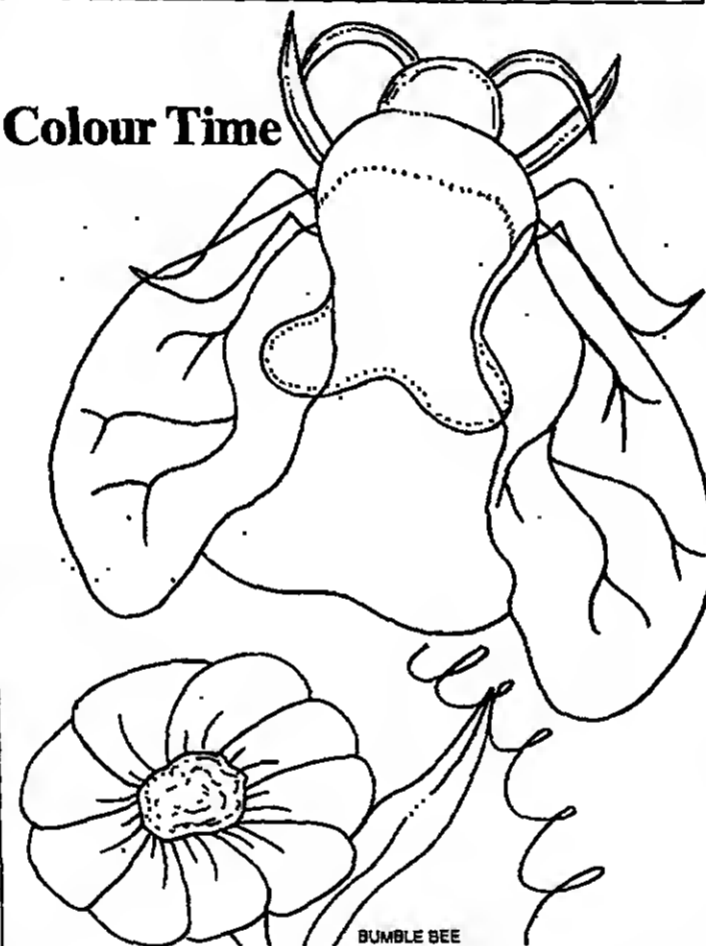


The smallest

Circle the item that is smallest in real life



Colour Time



Dear Junior readers,

When your parents send you to bed every evening, I'm sure you moan and groan trying to stay up a little longer. Maybe you want to watch a television programme, or listen to a radio programme or finish a game you are playing, true?

Well, early bed hour is very important for the sake of feeling happy and refreshed the following day.

After a late night, you will wake up tired and jittery. You will not feel like going to school, talking to anybody, or playing. A late night will mean lack of concentration during classes, a teacher may catch you day-dreaming and embarrass you in front of your friends. You will look tired with dark bags under your eyes - very unattractive. You may even feel ready to start crying at the slightest dilemma.

Always try to keep in mind that your parents love you very much and all that they do is for your well-being: no matter how unfair, depressing and frustrating it seems at the time.

Mand

Wordsearch

HEATED WORDS

| | | | |
|-------------|---------------|----------|--------------|
| BURN | FIRE | KEROSENE | RADIATOR |
| BUTANE | FUEL OIL | METHANE | SOLAR |
| CHARCOAL | FURNACE | NUCLEAR | SPACE HEATER |
| COAL | GAS | OIL | STOVE |
| COLD | GASOLINE | ORE | SUN |
| COOL | HEAT | PILOT | WARM |
| CORD | HOT | POWER | WATER |
| COST | HYDROELECTRIC | PROPANE | WIND |
| ELECTRICITY | INSULATION | RADIANT | WOOD |
| | | | WOOD STOVE |

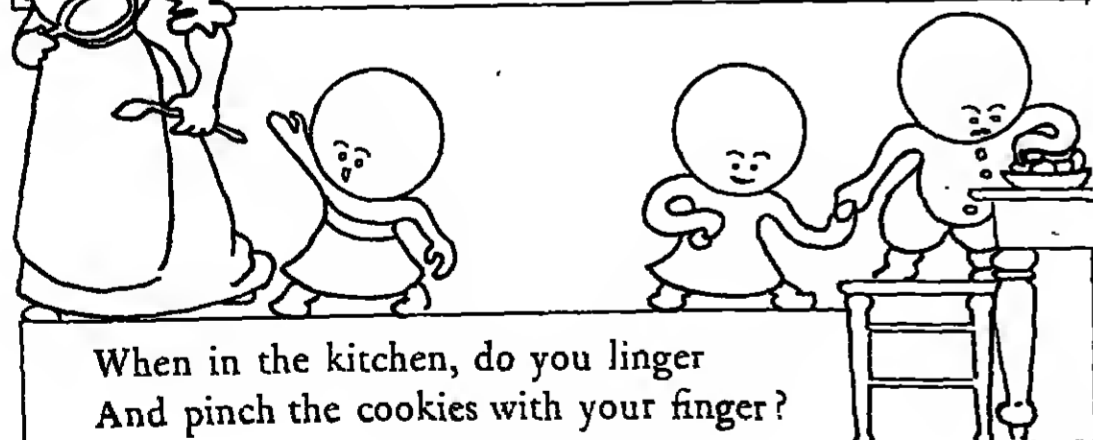
E E S P A G E H E A T E R D G
T N A I D A R Y Q F N U S N I
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I A E C W A R O P N B E O H U
P T V L E T I E R A G T L O L
S C O E R U F L O C A H E T A
O H T A L B I E P E S A U R T
L A S R O R E C A S O N F A I
A R D C O A L T N T L E W D O
R C O R D D I R E O I L A I N
E O O C O O L I S V N R R A T
T A W O D L O C T E E I M T S
A L W V I K E R O S E N E O O
W Y T I C I R T C E L E M R C

The Goops again

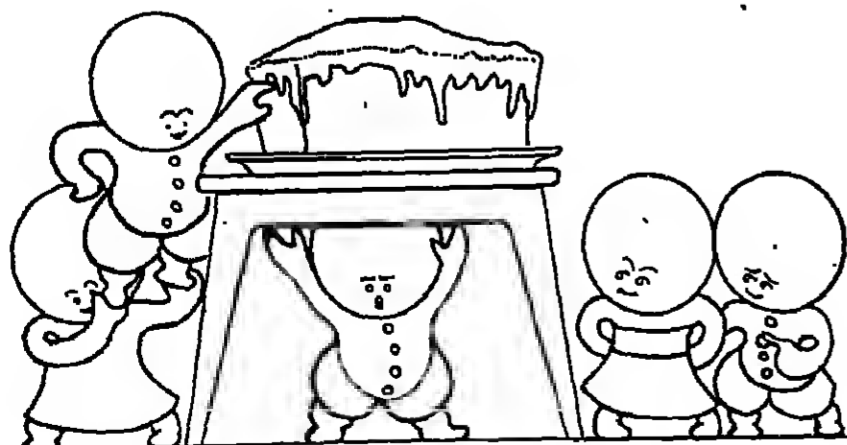


PICKING and STEALING

WHEN you are fetching bread, I trust
You never nibble at the crust.



When in the kitchen, do you linger
And pinch the cookies with your finger?



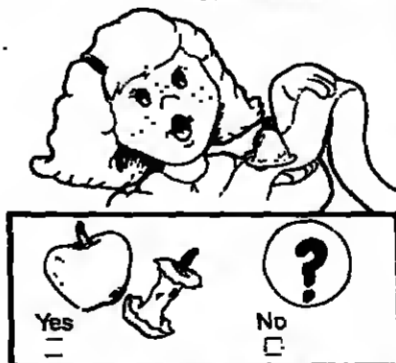
Or do you peck the frosted cake?
Don't do it, please, for Mother's sake!

The Earth's Core

THE EARTH'S CORE, or center, is believed by many scientists to be made of solid iron and nickel, even though they can't see it.

? Can you tell what the core of something is without seeing it?
Check your answer.

Hypothesis



Materials Needed: crepe paper, items on list, tape

Procedure:

1. Work in groups to make Mystery Balls.
2. Secretly choose a "core" from this list. Wrap it up in crepe paper until it is a ball shape. Tape the end. Write your group number on the tape.
3. All groups will try to guess the cores by using clues. Fill in this chart as you work.



??? Mystery Ball Core Chart ???

| Group No. | Hypothesis | Clues that helped you decide. | Right/Wrong |
|-----------|------------|-------------------------------|-------------|
| 1 | | | |
| 2 | | | |
| 3 | | | |
| 4 | | | |
| 5 | | | |
| 6 | | | |
| 7 | | | |
| 8 | | | |

Results and Conclusions

1. Could you tell what any cores were? _____ How many? _____
2. Is that what you thought you could do? _____
3. What did you learn? _____

Birthday coupon

Is your birthday to come soon?
Are you a regular reader of the Junior Times?
Well, now is the chance to let your friends know that it is your birthday!
Or maybe you would like to surprise your best friend, brother or sister by putting their picture in for them.
The details we need are:

Name: _____
Date of birth: _____
School: _____
Hobbies: _____
Telephone: _____
(confidential)

Your favourite most recent picture (4x6)

Send to:

ARAB TIMES

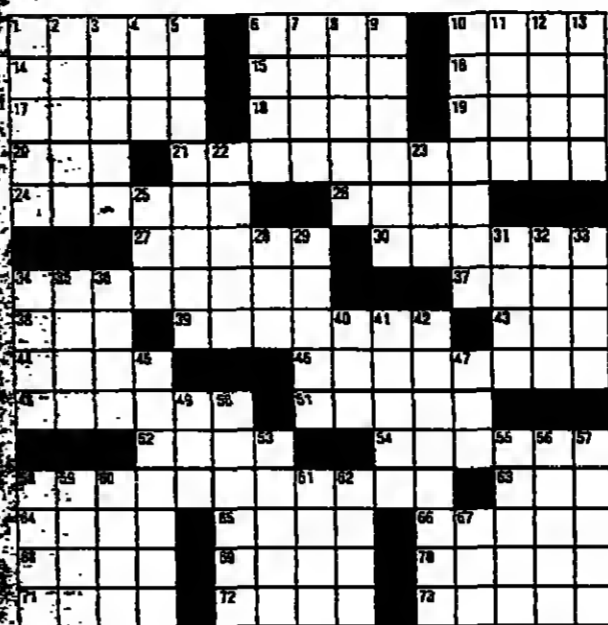
Junior Times
P.O. Box 2270
13023, Safat,
Kuwait

To avoid belated greetings please send within a week before the special date

BLONDIE — By Dean Young & Stan Drake



TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- 1 Locust bean
 - 2 Hunk of cheese
 - 3 Door part
 - 4 Page Angeles, The Forum
 - 5 Whoopee
 - 6 Range between Europe and Asia
 - 7 Casts
 - 8 Box elder
 - 9 Brume
 - 10 Midwest mkt.
 - 11 Game fish
 - 12 Pacific state
 - 13 Shadow
 - 14 Tangle
 - 15 Playground equipment
 - 16 Fiddled
 - 17 Retail store sign
 - 18 Hoosier humorist
 - 19 George
 - 20 City transportation
 - 21 Colorful carp
 - 22 Page
 - 23 Gallant
 - 24 Beverage server
 - 25 Distort
 - 26 Budget item
 - 27 Rate
 - 28 Hunting dog
 - 29 Ewe gambled here
 - 30 Not pro
 - 31 1981 Warren Beatty film
 - 32 Day to save for
 - 33 Freight
 - 34 Novelist
 - 35 Kingsley
 - 36 Edict
 - 37 "Ponzo" author
 - 38 Equal
 - 39 Certain
- DOWN**
- 1 amplifier
 - 2 Beg
 - 3 Bouquet
 - 4 Update
 - 5 Washington bill
 - 6 Nursery item
 - 7 Capella, for one
 - 8 Pieces
 - 9 Skidful
 - 10 The north wind
 - 11 personified
 - 12 Muddles
 - 13 Song for Caballe
 - 14 Part of E = MC²
 - 15 Short orders for the cook
 - 16 Coroner's relative
 - 17 "The — is cast": Caesar
 - 18 "Oedipus —"
 - 19 Ruling
 - 20 H.H. Munro
 - 21 — vera
 - 22 Small dam
 - 23 Powder
 - 24 Ingredient
 - 25 Impression
 - 26 Approach
 - 27 Crow's comment
 - 28 Pertaining to birds
 - 29 Large instrument
 - 30 Larson cartoon, with "The"
 - 31 USMC grads
 - 32 Dues
 - 33 Snare
 - 34 Composition
 - 35 Wrangell-Saint — National Park
 - 36 Sometimes it's common
 - 37 After nay or yea
 - 38 Indonesian island
 - 39 Oft-quoted auth?
 - 40 Prenuptial party
 - 41 Dog in Garfield's life
 - 42 Neighbor to Fin.
 - 43 Initials on a rap sheet

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

A GRAND EFFORT

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

♠ A Q 5 4 3 2

♥ 6 5 2

♦ Q J 10

♣ A

WEST

♠ J 8

♥ K J 10 7 4

♦ 7 5

♣ J 9 7 2

EAST

♠ K 10 9 7

♥ Q 9

♦ 6

♣ K Q 10 6 4 3

SOUTH

♠ 6

♥ A 8 3

♦ A K 9 8 4 3 2

♣ 8 5

The bidding:

South West North East

1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ 2 ♠

2 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass

4 ♠ Pass 5 ♠ Pass

5 ♠ Pass 6 ♠ Pass

7 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Two of ♠

The value of a hand waxes and wanes as the bidding progresses. South's 11 high-card points grew to gigantic proportions and the final action was well judged.

Once North jump-raised diamonds, South could afford to cue-bid the ace of hearts en route to five diamonds. There was nothing to

add after North's first club cue-bid, but when North repeated his action South took stock. To be interested in a grand slam without either of the two top trumps, North had to have the ace of spades as well as first and second-round control of clubs. Therefore, South's singleton spade represented a key control. Reasoning was translated into action with a jump to seven diamonds.

The accuracy of South's deductions was borne out in the play. Although West's club lead removed a key dummy entry, declarer was still able to manage his assets to yield the maximum return. After winning the ace of clubs, declarer cashed the ace of spades and ruffed a spade high. Two of dummy's trumps served as entries for two more spade ruffs, the first also high to prevent an overruff, which set up two long cards in the suit. Declarer was then able to ruff a club on the table and cash the good spades for two heart discards. In all, declarer scored three spade tricks, one heart, seven trumps in hand including three ruffs, one club and one club ruff in dummy for a total of 13 tricks.

HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



AGATHA CRUMM



BEETLE BAILEY



THE WIZARD OF ID



ANDY CAPP



B.C. — By Johnny Hart



HE-MAN — By G. Fortin & J. Shull



YOUR STARS



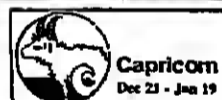
You should try to avoid getting into an argument. You are far too liable to allow yourself to be distracted. Do not think that luck will get you out of trouble. It will not. Be sincere.



Try to avoid being jealous or envious. Instead think of all the things you have that so many do not. Do not let a small disappointment defeat you unduly. Be true to your word.



Do all you can to avoid getting bored and do not bore others either. You will need all the concentration you can muster, so avoid distractions at all costs. You will have something to be pleased about. Be considerate.



You are all too likely to dwell on what has been and gone. Instead you should live in the present and look forward to the future. Stand by a friend who is having a difficult time. Be generous.



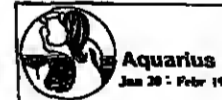
Pay more attention: better to avoid making mistakes rather than having to correct them. You are more liable to stomach upsets so do not eat anything you are not used to, nor anything stale. Make sure you get enough rest and exercise.



Something you learnt and mastered recently will now begin to prove its worth. Do not spend in the hope of a windfall that may never come. You will have something to be pleased about. Be sensible.



Work hard but do not allow work to destroy your personal life. Make sure you do not allow expenditure to outstrip income and do not fall behind with tax payments. Look on the bright side and have a good laugh at yourself. Be fair.



If you think you have nothing more to learn you are in serious danger of stagnation and worse. You should be swift but not to the extent where you become careless. Do nothing that would make your health suffer. Be compassionate.



You should keep calm and should not let a setback put you off your stride. Your lucky numbers are 4 and 36. By all means read a good book, but not past your bedtime. Watch out for mistakes. Be cheerful.



You should not try to do too many things all at once. However, do harm in changing the subject now and then. You should try to exercise a little more self-discipline and to combat lethargy. Be reliable.



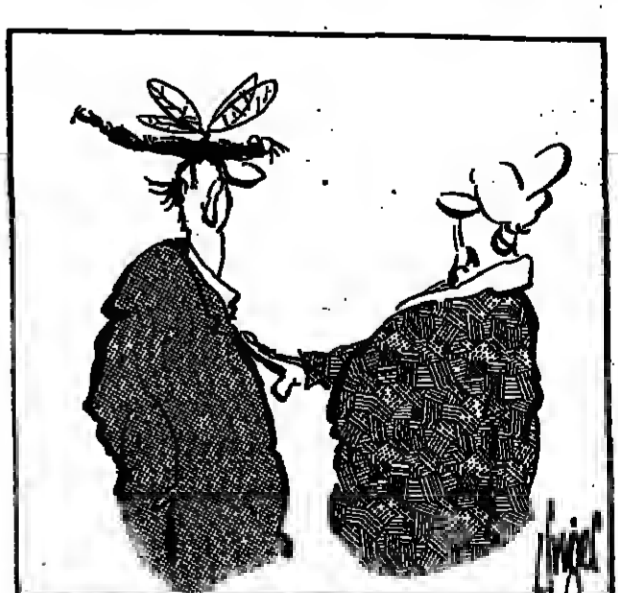
You will feel rather unloved but are you sure you are not asking for too much and not giving enough in return? There will be a lot to do so do make sure you waste no time. And take just a little more exercise, nothing too strenuous. Be less complacent.



You will find it rather hard to concentrate but you must make the effort. You should avoid making a nuisance of yourself nor allow others to prey on you. Check a calculator — you may well have made a mistake. Be realistic.



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(AT5-51422-2)
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(AT4-SAL-TM-3)

Wanted

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JULEEB Al Shiyook, 2 bedroom flat, 2 bathrooms, large saloon, wall to wall carpet and curtains, refrigerator, 2AC's and tela. Rent KD140 with water. Tel. 4342251, 4313206, 1.30 - 4 pm and after 8 pm.

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(AT4-51388-3)

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(AT4-51405-3)

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(AT5-51426-3)

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(AT5-51425-2)

SOFA set KD50, TV 27" KD45, TV stand KD8, 2 ACs KD90, cooker, oil heater etc. Tel. Ararat, 5740215.

(AT4-51407-3)

SONY video 5 system in excellent condition. KD70, 100 western video films KD70, and Canon zoom lens FD70-210mm not used, brand new in a cartoon, KD65. Tel. Mohammad, 9038075, 12 noon - 10.30pm.

(AT4-51368-3)

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(AT6-51424-6)

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(AT4-MUS-TM-3)

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(AT6-51434-3)

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(AT6-51436-2)

RED Stone 640K compatible PC, 2 ton Hitachi AC, Sharp microwave/Conv. Oven, Frigidaire 17 cu ft. fridge, Philips video pac, BMX bike etc. Tel. 5637249, 2-5 pm.

(AT4-51408-3)

THOMSON dishwasher, 2x bedroom wardrobes, study table, vacuum cleaner and some other household items for sale. Tel. 2842404.

(AT5-51417-3)

FARWANIYA, 2 bedrooms, hall, 2 bathrooms, with all furniture and tela. Furniture can be sold separately for sale. Rent KD165 including water. Tel. 4748074, after 4 pm.

(AT4-51387-3)

BMW motorcycle K-100RS metallic pearl white, 1988 model in excellent condition. Tel. Osman, 2548022, 12 noon - 4 pm.

(AT4-51396-3)

TWO bedroom, CAC apartment in Sharq, near Al Amiri Hospital for sale. Rent KD170 with water. Tel. Kamal, 3980414, 8.30 - 10.30 am.

(AT4-51402-3)

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(AT4-51414-3)

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(AT4-51413-3)

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(AT5-51416-2)

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(AT5-51419-2)

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ARAB TIMES NEWS IS OUR BUSINESS

Robson to undergo operation

LONDON, Feb 7, (Reuters): Manchester United and England captain Bryan Robson was due to have a hernia operation in a London hospital today and could be out of soccer for two months, his team manager said.

"It's a big disappointment, but at least we know now where we stand," said United manager Alex Ferguson. "I expect him to be out for six to eight weeks."

A specialist who saw Robson yesterday recommended surgery on the groin injury that has kept the midfielder out of football for six weeks, missing United's last nine matches.

Robson, who will probably miss England's World Cup warmup against Brazil on March 28 but hopes to be fit for the finals in Italy in the summer, limped out of a practice match without hitting a ball yesterday.

Bazdarevic to appeal again

BELGRADE, Feb 7, (Reuters): Key Yugoslav midfielder Mehmed Bazdarevic, out of the World Cup soccer finals for spitting at a referee, is to make a personal appeal against his suspension.

"I can't imagine not playing in the World Cup finals. It's something I have dreamed about for the whole of my life," Bazdarevic said today.

The Yugoslav federation appealed to Fifa in December but a one-year suspension, imposed in October after a match against Norway, was upheld.

"I have heard there is another possibility — to appeal directly and on my own to Fifa's executive committee and I will do that," Bazdarevic said.

Partizan Belgrade, banned from staging next month's home quarter-final European Cup Winners' Cup tie, are to play the game, against Dinamo Bucharest, in Stuttgart.

"We think we'll get good crowd support there from the many Yugoslav workers in the area," official Stojanovic Ristecki said.

The home ban follows crowd trouble last year.

Scotland name unchanged side

EDINBURGH, Feb 7, (Reuters): Scotland today named an unchanged side for their Five Nations Rugby Union Championship match against France at Murrayfield on February 17.

The Scots recovered from a 7-0 halftime deficit to beat Ireland 3-10 in Dublin in their opening championship game last Saturday, their first away victory in four years.

Centre Sean Lineen is carrying a slight shoulder injury from the match at Lansdowne Road but should be fit in time to face France who are expected to name their side on Sunday.

France, the defending champions who crashed to a 26-7 defeat against England in Paris on Saturday, have not won at Murrayfield since 1978.

Team — Gavin Hastings; Tony Stanger, Scott Hastings, Sean Lineen, Iwan Tukalo; Craig Chalmers, Gary Armstrong; Derek White, Finlay Calder, Chris Gray, Damian Cronin, John Jeffrey, David Sole (captain), Kenny Milne, Paul Burnett.

Robson & Co. get another chance

England can make amends

LONDON, Feb 7, (Reuters): England, with an experienced and little-changed squad, have a chance to make up for past failings when they meet old rivals Ireland and the Netherlands in the opening round of the World Cup finals in Sardinia in June.

Manager Bobby Robson's team, quarterfinalists in Mexico in 1986, but defeated by three crushing defeats at the European championship finals two years later, have good reason for hoping they can overcome the Irish and the Dutch in Italy.

For it was against them that England's high hopes of success in the European finals were extinguished, the Irish winning their opening clash 1-0 and the Dutch 3-1 just a few days later.

"It is an interesting group and a challenging one," said Robson when the draw for the finals put England with Ireland, Egypt and the Netherlands. "It gives the players a chance to prove something to everyone."

Their notorious supporters permitting, England — if they can take their good qualifying form with them — have every chance of progressing to the last eight again after arriving in Sardinia, where they will play all of their Group F games.

Unfortunately, as in West Germany two years ago, there is a possibility that whatever England produce on the pitch, it



Chris Waddie

will be overshadowed by their fans' activities off it.

England's World Cup is thus almost certain to be shrouded in high security and near-military style police activity.

It was much the same four years ago in Monterrey where England made hard work of

surviving the first round of the Mexican World Cup finals. Only the discovery of a natural Goalscorer in Gary Lineker, almost by accident against Poland, ensured a place in the second round.

Paraguay were then beaten comfortably, but it was a different story against Argentina with the eventual champions winning 2-1 in a rousing quarter-final made memorable by Diego Maradona's individual brilliance and his infamous 'Hand of God' opening goal.

In those finals, England were without their inspirational captain Bryan Robson and he, like the Netherlands' captain Ruud Gullit, remains a doubtful starter in Italy this time round.

His English club Manchester United have struggled badly all season and Robson, below his consistent best despite scoring twice against Yugoslavia in December, has missed nine successive club matches with a deep-seated groin strain.

If he is absent, or below par, it would be a huge blow to England who are likely to be without another established midfielder in Neil Webb. He is recovering from a ruptured Achilles tendon.

Robson, as a captain and regular goalscorer, has been the mainspring of the team for five years and his two goals against Yugoslavia were England's only ones to their last four matches.

England, who won the world Cup on home soil in 1966 when they played all their matches at Wembley, have not reached any final since. The usual cause of their demise has been fatigue coupled with a lack of flair, fluency, imagination and goals.

It led to their failure in Spain in 1982 and was the chief cause of embarrassment in Mexico until Lineker burst into prolific life to salvage their pride.

Robson, who followed Ron Greenwood as England manager after the 1982 finals, has shown enormous patience and loyalty to his established players and, as a result, such veterans as goalkeeper Peter Shilton and defenders Gary Stevens and Terry Butcher have been retained despite media criticism.

Shilton, at 40, has won 113 caps and is famous as one of the English heroes throughout the world.

Butcher, 31, with 67 caps, is better known for his blood-splattered courage than his skill. Stevens, after failing in Mexico, has almost inexplicably kept his place despite the claims of younger men such as Paul Parker and Michael Thomas.

Parker, a fleet-footed defender, and Thomas, a robust midfielder or full-back, have proven credentials for selection yet have to wait their chance of an extended run in the team.

Since West Germany, only Des Walker, a central defender with the pace to cover for Butcher's lack of it, has graduated while neither of the two highly-gifted wingers Chris Waddie or John Barnes has matured into a match-winning international player.

Robson's reluctance to make widespread changes has also resulted in ball-playing Tottenham midfielder Paul Gascoigne frequently being left out of the squad in the same way as the ood-discarded Glen Hoddle was four years ago.

It could be that a newcomer — like the versatile forward David Platt — may burst through before the finals, but it is more likely Robson's suspicion of change will lead to a familiar efficient but unimaginative England team.

England, unbeaten in 11 matches since the European finals, will prepare for Italy with warm-up games in London against Brazil, Czechoslovakia, Denmark and Uruguay before flying to Sardinia on May 25 together with wives and girlfriends.

The female companions will be sent home at the start of June, however, when serious work begins with a final warm-up match, in Tunis, against Tunisia.



Gascoigne: frequently left out

Zico plays last official match

RIO DE JANEIRO, Feb 7, (Reuters): Zico, one of Brazil's greatest all-time soccer stars, played his official farewell game at the Maracana Stadium in front of nearly 100,000 fans yesterday.

Some of the top soccer players from the last decade, including Germans Karl-Heinz Rummenigge and Paul Breitner, Dutchman Rudi Krol, Italian Claudio Gentile and Argentine Mario Kempes, as well as Zico's former and current Flamengo team mates took part in the game.

Although it is customary in testimonial games for the player of honour to keep the gate receipts, Zico will donate the nearly \$100,000 toward the building of Brazil's first hospital for haemophiliacs.

Four different teams played yesterday. The first half was contested between members of the Flamengo team that won the World Club Cup in 1981 and a Masters team made up of players from the 1978 and 1982 World Cups. In the second half, the current Flamengo side played a World Cup Masters team of currently active players.

The first half ended scoreless

with outstanding play by Rummenigge and Masters' goalkeeper Claudio Taffarel.

Flamengo took the lead in the 53rd minute on a goal by defender Fernando, but goals by Claudio Adao and Tarentini, both from passes by Bebeto, put the Masters ahead.

An 80th minute goal by Fernando made the final score 2-2. Although Zico did not score, he provided two of the matches best moments by dribbling through the opponents' defence. His closest chance came on a left-foot shot in the second half which was saved by Taffarel.

Zico's entrance at the start of the match was greeted by a display of laser lights and showers of ticker tape from fans.

On leaving the pitch at the end of the match, Zico took a lap of honour which was followed by a fireworks display.

Zico, 36, made his professional debut in 1971 and with the exception of a stint from 1983-85 with Italian club Udinese, played his entire career with Rio de Janeiro club Flamengo.

He played 89 matches for Brazil and his 66 goals made him the second-highest scorer in the



Zico: gets an official farewell

nation's history.

Zico played in the 1978, 1982 and 1986 World Cups although he was only fully fit during the 1982 competition.

In all, Zico, whose full name is Arthur Antunes Coimbra, has played 1,046 professional games, scoring 729 goals.

He won the Rio State Cham-

Rudolph beats Biondi in Cup

EAST BERLIN, Feb 7, (Reuters): East German Nils Rudolph beat Olympic champion Matt Biondi of the United States in the men's 50 metres freestyle yesterday in the highlight of the second day of a World Cup swimming competition.

Rudolph clocked 22.48 seconds, only one-hundredth of a second off the European record set in 1987 by compatriot Joerg Woithe. Biondi came second in 23.24 seconds.

Rudolph had already shown he was in form by winning his qualifying heat the previous day in 22.56 seconds.

"Christian Gessner put up another fine East Ger-

man display in the men's 200 metres Medley, winning in two minutes 3.56 seconds and leaving four Soviet Olympic finalists behind him.

Canada's Mark Tewksbury, a Commonwealth champion, won the 100 metres back stroke in 56.85 seconds.

The other men's events went to three West Germans. Peter Sitt won the 200 metres freestyle in a good one minute 49.63 seconds. European champion bronze medalist Martin Herrmann took the 100 metres butterfly in 54.80 seconds and Mark Warneke won the 100 metres breaststroke in one minute 3.24 seconds.

'UAE could surprise opponents'

ABU DHABI, Feb 7, (Reuters): The United Arab Emirates, who make their debut in the World Cup finals in June, drew warm praise from Danish national coach Sepp Piontek after their 1-1 draw with Denmark in a soccer friendly on Monday.

He said his advice to Franz Beckenbauer, his compatriot and coach of West Germany, who play the UAE in the opening round in Italy on June 14 — was simple: "Beware of this team."

Piontek said he expected the UAE to collect four points from their opening group matches. "Your defence will enable you to draw with West Germany and Yugoslavia and beat Colombia," he said, referring to the other countries drawn with the UAE in group D.

The UAE defeated Egypt's Olympic team 2-1 last week but the draw against Denmark, who have a high reputation despite failing to qualify for Italy, surprised even their own supporters.

"We had expected a 5-0 or 6-0 defeat," A UAE sports official said.

Eight more matches have been arranged with European teams after February's Gulf Cup tournament involving the UAE, Iraq, Kuwait, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Oman.

UAE will play two matches against the Swedish soccer side instead of the Soviet Union, it was announced yesterday.

The Russians were scheduled to play against the UAE team on Feb 12 and Feb 15.

Sweden will play the warmup games against the UAE on Feb 14 and Feb 17.

The UAE Football Association gave no reason for the substitution of Sweden for the Soviet Union team.

The Swedish team had been scheduled to play Feb 14 and 17 in Saudi Arabia.



Falah (right) with Khalifa.



Tareq Al Aiyen in action.

Falah and Al Wazzan reign supreme

IT was the same old story in Friday's 4WD rally. Marlboro campaigners Eid Falah and Tareq Al Wazzan outpaced all other competitors, managing to put a full seven minutes between themselves and the rest of the field.

The event was won by Eid Falah and Khaled Khalifa driving a Marlboro Mitsubishi Pajero. Even though there is still one round to go, this duo clinches the newly established Kuwait 4WD championship for Falah, who is already reigning national champion in the conventional category.

Tareq Al Aiyen, sponsored by Mild Seven Lights, was third.

"Our only competition came from Tareq," said Falah's co-driver Khaled Khalifa. Wazzan, the veteran Marlboro driver was setting very competitive times in the stages, and in the

early part of the event the lead changed hands several times. After a suspension and tyre problem compounded by inadequate service time, Wazzan and co-driver Edgar Speak were late entering a time control and clocked a two minute penalty. Despite putting in some excellent driving it was clear that Wazzan would not be able to catch his rival.

"We were not pushing to the limit," explained Marlboro co-driver Khaled Khalifa. "We were experiencing electrical problems, which caused us to lose time and speed in places."

"I am very happy to have won this event, and of course to have taken the title of Kuwait 4WD champion," said Falah. "I am lucky enough to have a good car, a good co-driver and strong support from my team. Every-

thing was 100 per cent and I'm delighted with our performance."

One other performance of note came from Hossam Al Sayafa, who was lying third through the early stages of the day, setting times close to those of the more experienced leaders. However Sayafa, who is better known for his exploits in the Mirit powerboat, rolled on stage five, causing extensive damage to his modified Range Rover, but none to himself or his navigator.

Results:

1. Eid Falah/Khaled Khalifa Pajero 1:09:50
2. Tareq Al Wazzan/Edgar Speak Range Rover 1:13:29
3. Tareq and Khaled Al Aiyen Rocky 1:20:23
4. Muntaz Shah/Brian Fernandes Feroza 1:26:05
5. Aswar Bu Jarwa/Salam Fawaz Suzuki 1:28:21
6. Ahmed Al Zafri/Ghazi Al Zafri Range Rover 1:41:43

On the occasion of the 10th Gulf Football Championship you are invited to participate in

بيتزا ايطاليا PIZZA ITALIA Quiz Competition

in co-operation with

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- Who will win the Gulf Cup Tournament held in Kuwait 1990?

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Jahangir begins title defence with victory

TORONTO, Feb 7, (Reuters): Pakistan's Jahangir Khan began the defence of his Toronto Invitational squash tournament title yesterday with a convincing straight games victory over Ross Norman of New Zealand.

Jahangir, winner of this eight-man tournament for the last seven years, defeated the man who put an end to his five-year winning streak in 1986 with a 17-15 15-12 15-4 win in

Group A play.

In the day's other Group A match, Briton Mark McLean needed four games to beat countryman Del Harris 15-12 14-17 15-10 15-6.

Australian Chris Dittmar, ranked third in the world, looked fresh after a six-week layoff and beat Adrian Davies of Britain 15-9 15-11 15-10 in Group B play.

The opening game between the seven-

time defending champion and Norman was a thriller with the lead changing hands constantly and neither player gaining more than a two point advantage.

From 14-14 Jahangir came up with a pair of fine shots and Norman committed an error to end the 19-minute game 17-15.

Jahangir quickly took control of the match in the next game.

Dittmar seemed surprised by Davies who

appeared to have the upper hand at several points, only to lose the rally with an error.

Dittmar was hitting superb length and his winners came as the ball died in the back corners rather than from his usual drop shots.

Though Dittmar has one victory behind him, he still must face world champion Jansher Khan and Canadian Sabir Butt in Group B round-robin play.

Connors, Evert back together

NEW YORK, Feb 7, (AP): Sixteen years ago, Jimmy Connors and Chris Evert were young and in love and the toast of tennis. Now Evert is retired, Connors is the oldest man on the tour and they're happily married to other people. But they'll soon be reunited — as television commentators.

Connors and Evert have joined the US network NBC as tennis analysts and will work together at the French Open and Wimbledon, where they danced together at the Champions' Ball in 1974.

Although they later split up, their careers remained intertwined. Connors went on to win more singles titles than any man (109) and Evert more singles titles than any player (157) in the history of professional tennis.

Evert, 35, retired from the women's tour after last year's US Open, but Connors continues to play a limited schedule at age 37. They'll debut as a broadcasting team at the French Open in June.

"We've known each other a long time, and I'm looking forward to working with him," Evert said.

Connors is confident they'll make a good team.

"If she doesn't feel comfortable with me and I don't feel comfortable with her, then something's really wrong," he said.

The broadcasting deal will give



Evert reunited with Connors

"I've never been shy about voicing my opinions," Connors said. "I'm going to call it as I see it."

And off camera? Evert is busy with exhibitions, commercials, charity work and her duties as president of the women's International Tennis Association.

"I haven't had a day off since October," she said. Connors plans to continue playing for at least another year. He is currently 19th in the world, his lowest position since the men started their computer rankings in 1973.

"If I can go out and win two tournaments the way I did last year, that will be great. And if I don't, that will be OK too," Connors said. "I'm going to keep playing as long as I enjoy it."

Zoecke stuns Connors

Courier routs Koeversmans



Connors out for 10 days

MILAN, Italy, Feb 7, (Reuters): Veteran American Jimmy Connors, complaining of injury, was beaten by West German Markus Zoecke in the first round of the ATP Grand Prix tennis tournament yesterday.

The 21-year-old Berliner, ranked 134th in the world, used a booming serve and a steady ground game to upset the sixth seed 6-3 4-6 7-6, winning the tiebreak 7-1.

Connors, who defaulted in the final here two years ago against Yannick Noah of France because of injury, went to hospital after the match to have his left wrist X-rayed.

He halted play in the 11th game of the final set after appearing to hurt the wrist when he mistimed a service return.

"I don't know what happened," 37-year-old Connors said. "I've never had any problems with this wrist before."

Connors' sloppy volleying and numerous unforced errors gave the lanky West German the encouragement to fight back from 2-0 down in the first and third sets and avenge a defeat by the American in their only previous clash in Hamburg last year.

Zoecke called the victory "my biggest success."

It was announced later that Connors will be out of action for 10 days.

Tournament doctor Rioco Volpi, who examined Connors last night, said the American sprained the wrist and slightly damaged a ligament but there was no bone fracture.

"He will need 10 days' rest," Volpi said today. "The injury is not serious. He is taking pills for inflammation and has to wear a soft cast."

The injury means Connors will miss next week's Belgian Indoor Championships.

Milan is not a lucky city for Connors, who has won every Grand Slam tournament except the French Open. A strained muscle forced him to default in the final two years ago against Yannick Noah of France.

American eighth seed Jim Courier had a much easier time in his opening match, overpowering Mark Koeversmans of the Netherlands 6-2 6-1.

Connors and Courier were the only seeds in action yesterday. World number one Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia, the top seed, was to meet Diego Nargiso of Italy's victorious Davis Cup team in his first round match today.

American John McEnroe, seeded second and playing his first tournament since his disqualification in the Australian Open, was to face Andrei Cherkasov of the Soviet Union.

Ohashi knocks out Choi

TOKYO, Feb 7, (Reuters): Japan's Hideyuki Ohashi grabbed the World Boxing Council (WBC) straw-weight title when he knocked out South Korean champion Choi Jeun-Hwan in the 10th round of their scheduled 12-round bout today.

Ohashi, in his third challenge for a world title, became Japan's first world champion for 15 months, since Hiroki Ioka lost the straw-weight crown to Napa Kiatwanchai of Thailand.

After ending a run of 20 unsuccessful world title attempts by Japanese challengers, Ohashi said: "I am happy to stop Japan's losing streak, rather than becoming a world champion."

Choi, making his first defence of the title he wrested from Kiatwanchai last November, was in trouble from the third round when Ohashi landed several solid combination punches and right upper cuts to the champion's face.

In the ninth round, Ohashi

floored Choi twice with a fine series of left upper cuts and hooks to the 20-year-old South Korean's body and the champion failed to get up the second time.

The 24-year-old Ohashi now has 13 victories, including nine knockouts, and three defeats in 16 professional fights.

And in London, British boxing officials are to protest over Saturday's controversial European heavyweight title fight won by challenger Jean-Maurice Chanelet of France.

Chanelet took the title from Derek Williams, but the Brito's manager, Mike Barrett, has suggested dye from Chanelet's gloves may have affected the champion, who produced a lacklustre display.

British Boxing Board general secretary John Morris confirmed today that allegations of Williams being somehow doped were being probed. Results from tests are expected within 48

hours.

Morris said: "I can't say what action we'll be taking over the doping allegations as we haven't had the test results yet."

But he added: "We shall certainly be launching a protest to the European Boxing Union (EBU) over Chanelet using considerable amounts of 'new skin' during the fight to patch up a cut."

"That is against all boxing laws and it will certainly be one part of our report to the EBU."

Williams complained of paralysis of his legs, dizzy spells and stinging eyes during the 12-round unanimous points defeat.

He spent the night after the fight in hospital.

Williams also mentioned he had an upset stomach the next day and recalled eating pasta, which he had not liked, and chicken six hours before the fight.

Chanelet's manager Jacques Milani has strongly denied the British claims.

Barclay sponsors bridge tournament

BARCLAY Bank will be sponsoring a bridge tournament for the next 15 weeks. The games for this tournament will be played every Sunday, at 6.00 pm, at the Regency premises. Attractive prizes will be awarded.

Results of the Mensah Ladies Bridge Club game played Monday morning:

1. Subenat Oday & Nida Khalaf
2. Nabil Alai & Laila Murtadha
3. Margaret Maynard & Jane Jackson

Results of the Regency Bridge Club game played on Sunday evening:

1. Abdul Ghani Shabib & Said Elmad
2. Simon & Jaggi
3. Ramon Samah & Alana Mousalli

Results of the Regency Ladies Bridge Club game played yesterday morning:

1. Shana Karala & Greta Shakhmurova
2. Dony Matar & Clara Bostic
3. Nila Khouri & Rima Ayad

The Regency Bridge Club will hold their end of the year tournament on Friday, Feb 23, at 10.00 pm at the Regency premises.

Results of bridge game held on Tuesday:

1. N/S
2. Chedy & Boukhar
3. Mrs and Mr Salomoni

Best mixed pair: Mrs Pereira & D'Souza.

Gilbert upset



Gilbert knocked out by Muller

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb 7, (Reuters): Top-seed and defending champion Brad Gilbert of the United States was upset by unseeded Gary Muller of South Africa in the first round of the \$225,000 San Francisco championships yesterday.

Gilbert, ranked number four in the world, was bombarded with booming aces and powerful returns by Muller to go down 4-6 6-7 (5-7).

As top seed, Gilbert had been paid a share of the appearance fees, \$195,000.

Fellow American Andre Agassi, the second seed and world number eight, also received a share of the appearance money.

The new Association of Tennis Professionals Tour has legalised guarantees, or appearance money, being paid to leading players in smaller tournaments.

In another upset, third-seeded Kevin Curren was beaten 2-6 5-7 by big-serving, left-handed fellow American Jody Rice.

Muller, a strong left-hander ranked 128, attacked Gilbert's serve in the first set, breaking the American twice and taking the set in the 10th game when Gilbert double faulted.

Muller led again in the second set, but Gilbert fought back to 6-6 and led 5-3 in the tiebreak. But the American, whose serve let him down for much of the match, lost three consecutive points to give Muller match point.

The South African blasted another winning return and won the tiebreak 7-5 when Gilbert netted a backhand.

Bin Sulayem prepares for busiest season of career

MOHAMMED Bin Sulayem, chasing a fourth successive Middle East title, is preparing for the busiest year of his rallying career with a programme of World and European Championship events adding to his regional schedule.

While a successful defence of his Fisa regional crown is Sulayem's main priority, the Winston Toyota Team Middle East is also planning more overseas appearances for the UAE star than he has ever experienced in one season.

"We will definitely be taking part in at least one World Championship rally this year, and maybe more," said team manager Terry Plant.

"We are also looking at several European Championship events, and there are a number of other possibilities. We are close to finalising our programme for the year, and it will certainly be the most exciting the team has ever put together."

Well-prepared for a hectic

Treasured trophy kept in vault

ALBANY, New York, Feb 7, (AP): The America's Cup, the most valued prize in yachting, sits in a most unusual trophy case a vault at the Morgan Guaranty Trust Co. in New York.

New York's highest court will decide in the next several weeks whether the 130-year-old ship trophy is moved to San Diego, New Zealand. The Mercury Bay Yacht Club claims the San Diego Yacht Club cheated in fencing off a challenge for the Cup in 1988.

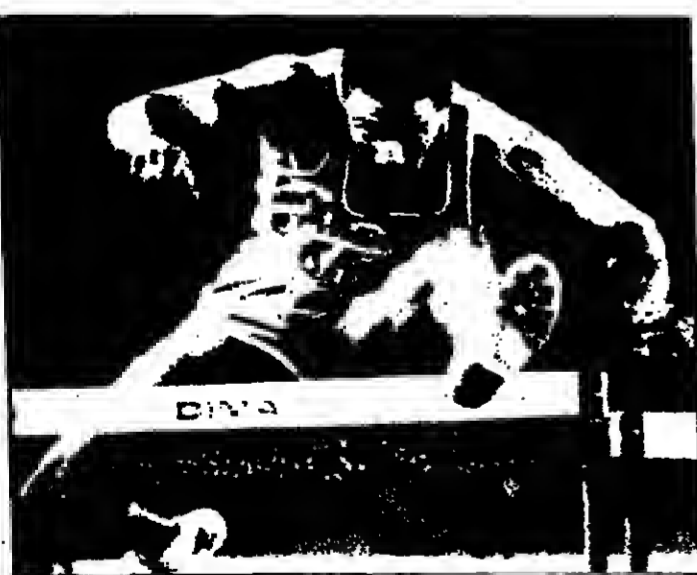
At stake is more than a trophy. The winner gets to host the next challenge, tentatively scheduled for 1991. That could mean an economic boost for the host community — America's Cup matches bring spectators from around the world — and considerable prestige for the owner of the winning yacht.

New Zealand's Mercury Bay Yacht Club skipper Dennis Cooner, sailing for San Diego, for using a catamaran instead of the more traditional sloop. The New Zealanders claim that the lighter and more manoeuvrable catamaran gave the Americans an unfair advantage and violated the spirit of the century-old rules that established the America's Cup competition.

Those rules, according to New Zealand, require that holders of the America's Cup accept any challenge from any foreign country, in a vessel similar to the one being used by the challenger. Mercury Bay sailed in a 132-foot (40 metre) fiberglass sloop and lost to Cooner in two consecutive races off San Diego.

The America's Cup.

Owens' uphill battle inspired Kingdom



Kingdom wins the Jesse Owens award

NEW YORK, Feb 7, (UPI): When he was 17 years old, ready to graduate from high school, Roger Kingdom first became aware of Jesse Owens and the significance of his struggle.

"I had an opportunity to hear many great things about him," Kingdom said yesterday. "I saw film clips of him, read books about him. I was getting to know him this way. It would have been incredible to meet such a person."

It was therefore with a sense of awe and humility that Kingdom accepted the Jesse Owens award, presented annually to the athlete who best personifies excellence in performance and promotes sincere co-operation and understanding among peoples of all nations.

Speaking in a room alongside

Owens' widow, Ruth, and their three daughters, Gloria Hemphill, Beverly Frather and Marlene Rankin, as well as his own mother, Christine Kingdom, and his fiancée, Joy Shepard, Kingdom said his own life has been inspired by the legend of Jesse Owens.

"It means a great deal because of what it stands for, not only for being the greatest amateur athlete in the world but for the fact that he has Jesse's name," Kingdom said of the awards. "The guy is immortal, and to have something that represents him helps keep his name alive, and I'm glad I'm a part of the Owens' family by winning this award."

"No matter what field you're in, or what kind of sport, you're always going to have adversity, and to see how he fought through it can help anyone. It helped me. I had a long, uphill battle to get to

the top.

"You have to look at the time and the unrest in the world (when Owens was in his prime just before World War II). It wasn't just the racism in our country but the racism in Europe and the Nazis. He had to contend with all that. The guy was incredible the way he held his poise and managed to fight through all those obstacles, which made him the immortal he is."

The announcement of Kingdom's selection was made by Herbert F. Douglas Jr., president of the International Amateur Athletic Association and founder of the award and an Olympic bronze medalist in the long jump in the 1948 Olympics. Kingdom was chosen by a world-wide panel of judges from among two other finalists, said Aouna of Morocco and Javier Sotomayor of Cuba.

King speculates on ways to promote Tyson in future

TOKYO, Feb 7, (AP): Brunei, Berlin, Beijing — they roll off promoter Don King's tongue, while his eyes shine.

Back in the 1970s it was Zaire, Kuala Lumpur and Macao, and King's ticket was Muhammad Ali.

Now he talks about taking Mike Tyson around the world.

King is in Tokyo for Tyson's heavyweight title defense Sunday against James "Buster" Douglas.

He also has been speculating about the chances of Tyson defending his title in the future in such places as Brunei or China.

"A German group is interested,"

King added. "We'll call it the freedom fight and put it where Hitler wouldn't recognise Jesse Owens in the 1936 Olympics. Maybe we can show some of his races on a screen."

"I was in Berlin when the wall came down. Fate just puts me in positions."

While King was playing "Around

the world in 80 seconds," his ticket was across the hall, sounding like a man who would just as soon be fighting in Texas as in Tokyo, in Buffalo as in Berlin.

While King's Ali ticket to gold and glory away from home was an invitation to an excursion — everybody wel-

come, the more the merrier — the Tyson ticket appears to be for a private car with a guard at the door.

Ali walked around the stadium before the weigh-in for his 1974 upset of George Foreman in Zaire leading the people in the chant of "Ali boom-yay" ("Ali kill him") and regaled

crowds at his workouts.

"I like quiet," said Tyson, who doesn't enjoy being the centre of attention away from the ring, although he sometimes unintentionally focuses the public eye on himself.

Ali turned news conferences into events.

"I hate those news conferences," said Tyson.

Ali and crowds acted as magnets for each other. One day in Kuala Lumpur, where he outpointed Joe Bugner in 1975, he went to a mosque and needed police help to get through the throng that suddenly materialised.

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